DRAFT PROGRAMME

Public Hearing
of the
Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

*SME perspectives on Public Procurement*

Tuesday, 8th May 2007 from 15h00 to 16h30
European Parliament, Brussels
Room: ASP 1G2

15.00 - 15.15
- Welcome address by the Chair of the IMCO-Committee.
- Statement by Gauthier Pierens, DG MARKT, European Commission.

15.15 - 15.25
**SMEs in Public Procurement: State of play/participation levels, and SME motivations.**

15.15 - 15.25 Presentation by Rob van der Horst, Director, EIM Business and Policy Research, on SME market-share in EU public procurement and on how public procurement can help stimulate the growth of the EU's innovative SMEs.

15.25 - 15.35
**The uptake and expected benefits for SMEs of online tools in public procurement.**

15.25 - 15.35 Presentation by Ulf Hammarström from the European Defence Agency on the EDA's experience of improving SME access to public procurement through an expanded public contracts web portal for SMEs.
The main difficulties encountered by SMEs in accessing public contracts and how to resolve them.

15.35 - 15.45 Presentation by David Smallbone, Kingston University Small Business Research Centre focussing on adapting Contracting Authorities to the needs of small and micro-businesses and on improving their access to expertise and resources for tendering.

15.45 - 15.55 Presentation by Gerhard Huemer, Director of Economic and Fiscal Policy, UEAPME, on adapting Contracting Authorities to SME needs and increasing the competence of SMEs in working the public procurement system.

15.55 - 16.05 Presentation by Vincent McGovern from BusinessEurope on adapting Contracting Authorities to SME needs and increasing the competence of SMEs in working the public procurement system.

16.05 - 16.20 - Questions & Answers by Members

16.20 - 16.30 - Summary and closing statements

- Commission / Presidency reactions
- Chair of IMCO Committee

Important notice for persons who wish to attend the hearing:

This hearing is open to the public. However, for SECURITY REASONS, access can only be granted in response to a prior request for an access badge.

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