

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3620/09
by Jens Holm (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: EU-Central America negotiations, government procurement

The EU Member States are using government procurement as an important tool to confront the global financial and economic crisis. Nevertheless, the Commission, through its Association Agreement negotiations with Central America, is pushing for restrictions on the ability of public entities to use this tool.

If the Commission's proposals are taken up in the Association Agreement, how will the new provisions affect the stimulus and recovery packages of European governments? What will be the impact on the Central American countries? Can the Commission give examples of problematic government procurement policies or practices in Central America which it is seeking to eliminate through the Association Agreement?