

Question for written answer E-004621/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: European public procurement procedures open to all comers

According to the Commission, European public procurement procedures were worth around EUR 2 000 billion per year in 2017, i.e. around 13 % of European GDP ¹. Unlike that of our main competitors (the USA and China), EU procurement is for the most part open to international competition. In 2012, the Commission estimated that foreign firms were awarded public contracts in the EU worth a total of between EUR 10 billion and EUR 17 billion, whereas European businesses made EUR 10 billion abroad ², ³. This was therefore a negative balance of between 0 and 7 billion euro.

1. What were the three largest public contracts ⁴ won by European firms in China and the USA in 2019?
2. What were the three largest public contracts ⁵ won in Europe by Chinese or US firms in 2019?
3. What are the EU's latest recorded totals (import and export) compared with the rest of the world (including China and the USA) where public procurement is concerned?

¹ <https://cutt.ly/kfa9Zsy>

² Impact assessment accompanying the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on the access of third-country goods and services to the European Union's internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on access of European Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:45716c9c-f0f6-423d-be65-2dfbde1d3ea7.0001.02/DOC_8&format=PDF, pp 7 and 10.

³ That derisory figure of EUR 10 billion corresponded to 0.08 % of EU GDP in 2012. It should be noted that EUR 5 billion – 50 % of the public contracts obtained abroad – would be accounted for by explicit clauses in bilateral free trade agreements between the EU and certain third countries.

⁴ including defence and infrastructure contracts.

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