

**Question for written answer E-005650/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tomislav Sokol (PPE)

Subject: Electronic auctions in public procurement procedures

Public procurement generates more than 14 % of EU GDP. The concept of electronic auctions was introduced into European legislation in 2004 by Directive 2004/18/EC. The electronic auction has proven to be a powerful tool in the fight against corruption, and in addition it provides significant financial savings. Other advantages include the increased transparency of the entire public procurement process, time saving, accelerated communications in the bidding process and obtaining objective information on prices and market conditions. Despite these objective advantages, research shows that electronic auctions are rarely used. To be specific, the use of electronic auctions in public procurement procedures in the European Union is less than 1 % in terms of the number and scope of awarded contracts, and a Portuguese study reveals that electronic auctions had a rate of use of 0.7 % in the period from January 2013 to April 2014. In the light of this:

1. Does the Commission have any knowledge as to the reasons for the relatively infrequent use of electronic auctions in public procurement procedures in the European Union?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to take to inform national authorities and legal entities with public authority about the benefits of using electronic auctions?
3. How can the Commission encourage the use of electronic auctions in public procurement procedures, especially for the purchase of personal protective equipment?