

**Question for written answer E-005423/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Frances Fitzgerald (PPE)

Subject: Contracts and tenders for local employment services

Members of the Irish Local Development Network have been providing public employment services (PES) successfully for over 25 years through local employment services and job clubs. In 2013, the European Network of Public Employment Services (PES Network) published a paper entitled 'Successful partnerships in delivering public employment services', which cites the companies and services involved as an example of successful PES partnerships at local level. In its 2020 thematic paper, the PES Network working group on partnership management concluded that 'partnership working is an essential component of PES delivery, and that dynamic, flexible partnerships offer the greatest potential to add value'.

Does the Commission agree that it is important to have strong, locally-based, employment services and that performance-based contracting for employment services risks endangering the partnership approach advocated by the PES Network? Additionally, can it explain which aspects of EU law require local employment services to tender in competition with private providers?

Can the Commission confirm that:

A contract of indefinite duration predating the procurement directives and to which there have been no material changes falls outside the scope of these directives?

A contractual relationship between bodies governed by public law is expressly exempt from public procurement requirements under the relevant directives, and that Member States are therefore not obliged to tender for local employment services where such contracts apply?