

**Question for written answer E-002191/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Nicola Procaccini (ECR)**

Subject: EU tender procedure for SAR vessels

On 16 May 2023, at the request of Civipol (technical cooperation operator of the French Ministry of the Interior), DCI (Défense Conseil International) issued an EU call for tenders<sup>1</sup> for the provision of training and various types of equipment, including three SAR (search and rescue) vessels. Initially published in French on DCI's portal, the call, with a deadline of 16 June 2023, was only translated into English at the start of June, thus preventing many non-French-speaking companies from taking part.

In addition to the language restrictions, the call for tender was not published on the EU's official channels, likely excluding many operators in the sector who predominantly rely on EU hubs for such information. Indeed, as a general rule, even calls for tender that are issued by other authorities are published on the TED (Tenders Electronic Daily) portal, but this tender procedure does not appear anywhere on the portal or in its archive.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission confirm if it is legitimate for calls for tenders such as these to be published solely on a portal managed by national authorities and not on an EU portal?
2. Would it be possible for the Commission to reopen a call for tenders should procedural problems such as those mentioned above arise, with reference to the EU rules on ensuring equal opportunities in tender procedures?

Submitted: 12.7.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://groupedci.com/call-for-tenders/acquisition-of-sar-vessels-search-and-rescue/>.