

**Priority question for written answer P-000063/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Grace O'Sullivan** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Local employment services and EU procurement laws

Local development companies, represented by the Irish Local Development Network, were established in 1991 under the Programme for Economic and Social Progress to carry out social inclusion initiatives and have been providing local employment services (LES) for over 25 years. Their budgets were set by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and state bodies were directed to second staff into LES services to create an integrated services working model.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development and Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, has proposed that in line with the EU procurement directives, LES will have to compete in open requests for tender.

Can the Commission clarify:

1. Which EU directives require LES to tender in competition with private providers?
2. Whether a contract of indefinite duration, which predates the procurement directives and to which there have been no material changes, falls outside the scope of these directives?
3. Whether a contractual relationship between bodies governed by public law is expressly exempt from public procurement requirements under the relevant directives, and whether Member States are not obliged to require LES to tender where such contracts apply?