

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002931/25
to the Commission
Tomislav Sokol (PPE)
(16 July 2025)

Subject: Public procurement in healthcare

The ongoing review of the EU's Public Procurement Directive⁽¹⁾ presents a key opportunity to embed a modern, sustainability-driven approach to procurement across Member States, including in sensitive sectors such as healthcare.

Public tenders increasingly include environmental criteria, often focused on greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the EU's Green Deal and efforts to promote value-based, circular procurement. However, environmental considerations must be counterbalanced with a broader, more holistic view, particularly in sectors like healthcare, where the human component is central. Here, sustainability should be understood not only in environmental terms, but also in terms of its economic, social, and human impact, meaning patient outcomes, patient safety, and the well-being of the healthcare workforce.

1. How will the Commission ensure that the revised Public Procurement Directive supports a holistic approach to the definition of sustainability — including human and economic impact in sectors such as healthcare?
2. How will the Commission support procurement authorities in applying such an approach — e.g. through technical guidance, capacity-building or funding — to ensure a shared understanding of sustainability across Member States and a level playing field for economic operators?
3. What steps will be taken to ensure sustainability criteria do not hamper innovation, safety or patient outcomes in healthcare environments?

Submitted: 16.7.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(4 September 2025)

As announced in the 2025 Single Market Strategy, the revision of the EU public procurement legislation aims to strengthen the strategic role of public procurement and to mainstream the use of sustainability, resilience and social criteria in EU public procurement⁽¹⁾.

The Commission acknowledges the critical nature of the healthcare sector and intends to ensure that the revision is coherent with EU health and investment policies and legislation, in line with Better Regulation principles.

As part of its evaluation of the public procurement directives, the Commission has already been actively engaging with health stakeholders through various projects such as the 'Big Buyers Working Together'⁽²⁾ initiative and the Public Buyers Community Platform⁽³⁾. Furthermore, the Commission consulted widely with stakeholders through a public consultation and a call for evidence⁽⁴⁾.

In the context of its preparatory work for the revision, the Commission intends to assess various policy options, which might include for instance technical guidance or capacity-building.

The Commission is also convinced of the importance of maintaining high standards of innovation and safety in health and, more generally, of improving EU citizens health. It intends to assess the impact of the various revision policy options on these important objectives.

¹ Directive 2014/24/EU of 26 February 2014 on public procurement, OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/24/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025)500 — Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions — The Single Market: our European home market in an uncertain world — A Strategy for making the Single Market simple, seamless and strong; Brussels, 21.5.2025.

⁽²⁾ <https://public-buyers-community.ec.europa.eu/about/big-buyers-working-together>.

⁽³⁾ <https://public-buyers-community.ec.europa.eu>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14427-Public-procurement-directives-evaluation_en.