

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000190/26
to the Commission
Maria Grapini (S&D)
(19 January 2026)**

Subject: Public Procurement Directive

The Public Procurement Directive (Directive 2014/24/EU) needs to be revised in order to remedy the problems that have arisen in its implementation.

Discussions in the IMCO Committee, along with public debates, have shown the need to ensure fair competition by applying the same conditions to all tenderers as regards compliance with social, environmental and quality standards.

1. Does the Commission not consider it necessary to scrap the 'lowest price' criterion and introduce other criteria relating to quality, corporate sustainability, social standards, limiting subcontracting to just one level (as recommended in the Letta report), use of critical technologies and certification of conformity to EU standards?
2. Does the Commission not see a need to amend the directive to enable SMEs to access public procurement procedures and to introduce a binding requirement that tenderers must provide cast-iron guarantees as to the contract being performed in line with the stipulations of the directive?

We look forward to receiving an answer.

Submitted: 19.1.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(9 March 2026)**

The revision of the current legislative framework on procurement ⁽¹⁾ was announced in the Commission work program for the second quarter of 2026 ⁽²⁾.

On 14 October 2025, the Commission published an evaluation of the current public procurement framework ⁽³⁾, followed by the launch of a public consultation, which closed on 26 January 2026 ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission is now preparing the impact assessment.

While the current framework allows contracting authorities to consider quality, environmental characteristics, social aspects, innovation, and lifecycle costs alongside price, the evaluation showed that lowest-price awards remain very frequent across the EU.

The Commission is currently assessing policy options to strengthen the strategic role of public procurement and better promote socially responsible public procurement.

Although the evaluation shows small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) winning a significant share of public contracts, public consultations suggest that challenges remain in this area.

The Commission is currently assessing policy options to improve SME access to public procurement contracts, notably through simplification and reduction of administrative burden.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02014L0023-20260101>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0085>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025SC0333>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15492-EU-public-procurement-rules-revision/public-consultation_en.