

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003379/26
to the Commission
Cynthia Ní Mhurchú (Renew)
(31 August 2026)**

Subject: Procurement transparency and SME access to public contracts

The Commission has repeatedly emphasised the importance of improving access to public procurement for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). However, limited transparency on purchasing patterns, repeat awards, contract aggregation and supplier concentration may make it harder to assess whether procurement markets are genuinely open to smaller firms.

1. Does the Commission consider that better procurement data could help identify barriers to SME's participation in public contracts?
2. Will the Commission assess whether Member States collect sufficient data on supplier size, repeat awards, contract lots and market concentration to evaluate SME access?
3. In the future Public Procurement Act, will the Commission consider measures to improve transparency on whether public procurement markets remain accessible to SMEs and new entrants?

Submitted: 31.8.2026

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

The current digital ecosystem for procurement remains fragmented, non-interoperable and insufficiently data-driven, which limits the analytical ability of public authorities.

The Public Procurement Act proposal ⁽¹⁾, adopted by the Commission on 9 September 2026, puts high-quality procurement data as a safeguard for transparency and accountability, particularly where procedural controls are streamlined, but also as a way to reinforce policy monitoring.

The establishment of national public procurement data spaces, feeding into an EU-level public procurement data space, is specifically designed to support structured access to procurement and contract lifecycle data, thereby enabling more robust monitoring of small and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs) access across the internal market.

Furthermore, the Public Procurement Act proposal would introduce a comprehensive set of measures specifically designed to facilitate the participation of SMEs in public procurement procedures.

The integrated common digital ecosystem established by the Act will allow SMEs to identify and participate more easily in procedures across the EU, including in other Member States.

The once-only principle, whereby evidence of eligibility need only be submitted once, will significantly reduce the administrative burden traditionally faced by smaller operators.

Finally, the proposed Act also facilitates the participation of consortia, which will help specialised SMEs lacking sufficient financial guarantees to team up with other entities and share bidding requirements.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52026PC0590>.