



UNIEP POSITION PAPER

Brussels, 20th February 2012

European Painters and Decorators support the new revising of Public Procurement but stay dubious about the red tape's burden.

The proposal of the European Commission on the modernisation of Public Procurement is currently passing on to the European Parliament and Council for being negotiated and adopted by the end of 2012.

UNIEP's Members strongly support the Commission for making SME's access to public tenders easier, fairer and more transparent by revising existing purchasing procedures.

As for the simplification, UNIEP values the flexibility that the proposal reflects welcoming the Electronic Procurement passport and the introduction of a self-declaration of compliance as a first step to reduce red tape's costs. Along with the division of contracts into lots, UNIEP supports the requirement limitation (the turnover requirement for bidders has been lowered to 3 times the contract volumes), and values the will to allow direct payment to subcontractors, often suffering from delayed payment.

In spite of all, our members stay dubious about consequences that the possibility of negotiation would imply. Even if the chance for public administrations and bidders to talk terms fulfils the purchaser's needs and could include additional criteria, UNIEP point out that equal treatment, as well as transparency, may not be guaranteed. Moreover, UNIEP hardly expects an administrative burdens reduction join to the opportunity of negotiation. In order to avoid favouritism, to preserve from an unbalanced field of competitors and to save small and medium-size enterprises from a red tape's overload, UNIEP proposes a limited number of permitted negotiations to be decided.

In addition to the negotiation procedures, the shorter deadlines introduced will make difficult for small companies to prepare a tender. We agree for a publication by local authorities of a general notice for their planned procurement for the following year.

The international Association of Painting Contractors (UNIEP) represents around 50,000 businesses through its member national associations in twelve European Countries. Contributing to the decision making process at European level, UNIEP has been the voice for painting contractors and allied trades since 1953. The European painting and decorators sector, as composed by small and medium-sized enterprises, contributes to the construction's industry output.