

Targeted consultation
Government Experts Group on Public Procurement – Summary
16 December 2020

The members of the Commission’s “Government Experts Group on Public Procurement” acknowledged the importance of ensuring a level playing field and addressing the distortive impacts of foreign subsidies in the internal market.

It was also suggested by the members that any new provisions should be proportionate as regards compliance costs, and new rules should be coherent with international obligations.

From the feedback received, the participants expressed concerns about a potential increase of the administrative burden, additional costs as well as for the time needed to accomplish public procurement procedures.

Concerning the compliance cost questions, there was agreement that the time required to assess a tender depends on a variety of different factors (e.g. type of procedure, level of complexity, buyer’s internal rules, subject matter of the procurement etc.).

Although members expect an increase of the amount of work that will be required from the contracting authorities, the replies demonstrate that it is difficult to estimate the exact value of this increase and to define this cost in full time equivalents (FTE). The few answers received on both the potential increase regarding notification and assessment requirements varies a lot, based on estimations using different measurement units.

For the notification requirements, estimations vary between a few working hours, or between one to 13 FTE. Concerning the investigation and assessment requirements, answers are ranging from between 25 to 35 working days to a few months and from two to 44 FTE.

A majority of members also expressed the view that contracting authorities do not have the necessary expertise, skills and capacity to assess the relevant information.

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