

HOPE Position on Public Procurement

The core aim of the revision of the Public Procurement directives should be to reducing the administrative burden by simplifying the current rules. HOPE advocates for clear and simple rules with a reduction in the level of detail and greater reliance upon the general principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination.

1. Simplify

The Concessions directive should be the the model to follow by simplifying the scope, the procedures, and the announcements. This would benefit both contractors and tenderers. There is no need for too detailed descriptions of procedural phases: a simple distinction between one-phase and two-phase procedures would be enough. In two-phase restricted procedures, contractors should retain flexibility to define the process. EU contract notices should include only the essential information necessary for tenderers to assess business opportunities. The current MEAT criterion has created confusion. It should be replaced with three distinct options: lowest cost with minimum quality requirements; lowest cost combined with scored quality criteria; quality-only evaluation with a fixed price. It allows more transparent alignment between cost and quality considerations.

2. Keep it for procuring

Public procurement legislation should remain a procedural framework, not a vehicle for mandatory policy goals. Horizontal objectives such as green and social sustainability, innovation, safety, and preparedness should stay voluntary tools. Contractors must retain the flexibility to select objectives that best suit individual procurements, keeping the core purpose of procurement focused on public buying and satisfying local needs. The growing number of sector-specific regulations and directives makes it increasingly difficult to manage compliance. These rules should be reviewed and streamlined to ensure simple, coherent mechanisms compatible with the procurement context.

3. European preference not an end it itself

The policy goal of European preference should remain secondary to simplifying the procurement framework. Any preference for certain European industries should be implemented through a dedicated instrument like the Inter-national Procurement Instrument activated by the Commission. Such instrument could define the sector, timeframe, and contract value reserved for companies of genuinely European origin. The administrative burden of verifying company or product origin must not fall on contracting authorities. It should also be recognized that prioritizing European markets will likely in-crease costs due to limited supply within the EU. In the current economic cli-mate, careful consideration is needed before imposing additional costs on hospitals and healthcare services.

HOPE, the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation, is a European non-profit organisation, created in 1966. HOPE represents national public and private hospitals associations and hospitals owners either federations of local and regional authorities or national health services. Today, HOPE is made up of 36 organisations coming from the 27 Member States of the European Union, as well as from the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Serbia as observer members. HOPE mission is to promote improvements in the health of citizens throughout Europe, high standard of hospital care and to foster efficiency with humanity in the organisation and operation of hospital and healthcare services.