

Monday 6 April 1998

UNICE welcomes Commission Communication on Public Procurement

The Chairman of UNICE's Public Procurement working group, Mr Timm Meyer, has welcomed the Commission's recently published Communication on Public Procurement "as a very well written, concise and user-friendly document, clearly outlining existing problems and the possible solutions".

Mr Meyer warmly congratulated the Commission on taking into account the many views expressed in the consultation which had taken place on the previous Green Paper. "The Commission's emphasis on better transposition of the legislation at member state level, on more flexible procurement rules and on future publication of interpretative guidelines to clarify ambiguities in the directives is something which can be welcomed by all", he said.

UNICE is particularly glad to see that a number of the recommendations made in its submission to the Green Paper have been taken into consideration, most notably:

- ✧ exclusion of the telecommunications sector from the scope of the Utilities Directive;
- ✧ facilitating access for SMEs to public procurement markets;
- ✧ an improved negotiated procedure;
- ✧ legislation compatible with leading-edge procurement techniques and principles, e.g. public-private partnerships; and
- ✧ increased emphasis on the use of electronic procurement.

While UNICE may have different views to the Commission on the exact nature of a number of the changes envisaged by the document, "we see the Communication as a useful guide to Commission thinking and we will now busy ourselves in preparing our contributions to the follow-up work", Mr Meyer stated.

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