



## PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

### KEY MESSAGES

- 1** The EU legal framework provides sufficient legal certainty and secures open, transparent and fair public procurement throughout Europe.
- 2** From the international standpoint, the EU should put in place a proactive and ambitious market access policy to help combat the persistent imbalance in the openness of public procurement markets between the EU and its main trading partners.

### BACKGROUND

With an annual turnover of 1,500 billion euros or 16% of the EU's annual GDP, public procurement has an important role to play in improving Europe's competitiveness in an increasingly globalised world.

The current economic downturn has only accentuated the need for good public procurement actions as the financial leeway of states and regions decreases and public deficits rise.

European companies believe strongly in the importance of public purchasing and wish for all regulation and other initiatives to be consistent with the smooth functioning of the market and contribute to the economy and wellbeing of citizens.

### WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

- To preserve the current public procurement legal framework. Green and social objectives as well as the improvement of SME access to public procurement can be pursued within the current framework.
- Strong and fair competition, where public authorities in each member state are open and aim to do business with the best of industry ensuring quality and value for money.
- Compliance with the fundamental principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency.
- Efficient procurement processes that keep tendering costs and timescales under control.
- The creation of a real level playing field between the EU's public procurement markets and those of third countries.
- In particular, the EU should raise the profile of the Government Procurement Agreement accession negotiations, seek a balanced position for effective and improved market access and negotiate ambitious government procurement chapters in bilateral agreements.

# BUSINESSEUROPE



MEMBERS ARE 40 LEADING  
NATIONAL BUSINESS FEDERATIONS  
IN 34 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

 Austria	 Belgium	 Bulgaria	 Croatia	 Cyprus	 Czech Republic
 Denmark	 Denmark	 Estonia	 Finland	 France	 Germany
 Germany	 Greece	 Hungary	 Iceland	 Iceland	 Ireland
 Italy	 Latvia	 Lithuania	 Luxembourg	 Malta	 Montenegro
 Norway	 Poland	 Portugal	 Portugal	 Rep. of San Marino	 Romania
 Slovak Republic	 Slovenia	 Spain	 Sweden	 Switzerland	 Switzerland
 The Netherlands	 Turkey	 Turkey	 United Kingdom		