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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT: BUSINESSEUROPE CALLS FOR BETTER ENFORCEMENT AND MORE LEGAL CERTAINTY

As one of the twelve levers to boost the internal market and representing approximately 18% of EU GDP, public procurement plays an essential role in the European economy. In this context BUSINESSEUROPE supports improving the efficiency of public procurement procedures in Europe.

Still, BUSINESSEUROPE has always maintained that an overhaul of the current legislative framework is unnecessary given that the main problems lie in poor enforcement of the rules at national level and a lack of training amongst contracting authorities over how to apply the rules correctly. In this context, BUSINESSEUROPE asks in particular for:

- Strong safeguards to ensure transparency, market openness and competitive tendering, which are vital to support economic growth, ensure quality and innovation;
- Simplification as long as it does not jeopardise competition or cause transparency problems;
- Better training and provision of assistance to contracting authorities in preparing and carrying out award procedures.

BUSINESSEUROPE is of the opinion that the current rules have greatly clarified how public purchasers can include environmental and social considerations in their procurement processes. There is no need therefore to substantially review these aspects but rather to increase the sharing of best practice in this area.

Philippe de Buck, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE, said: *'As the financial leeway of states and regions decreases and public deficits rise, good public procurement is essential. Efforts should concentrate on better enforcement of public procurement rules given that legal certainty for business is crucial'*.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE represents small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE's members are 41 leading industrial and employers' federations from 35 European countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe. For the full list of our members, please visit our website.

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