

Public Procurement

Brief description and main aims:

The current legislative framework on public procurement consists of three EU directives adopted in 2014 (2014/23/EU on concessions, 2014/24/EU on “classic” procurement and 2014/25/EU on “utilities” procurement). These rules are aimed at ensuring that public procurement procedures are transparent and fair.

Nevertheless, in its Special Report 28/2023, the European Court of Auditors found that competition in EU public procurement declined between 2011 and 2021, and that the 2014 reform objectives—notably simplifying and shortening procedures—have not been fully achieved. It recommends clearer priorities, better data collection and monitoring, and an action plan to address barriers to competition.

In response, the European Commission launched a public consultation and Call for Evidence in December 2024 to evaluate the 2014 procurement directives, with a view to a possible revision in 2026. In September 2025, the European Parliament adopted its own-initiative report on public procurement (2024/2103(INI)), setting priorities for the upcoming reform — including a shift from “lowest price” towards value-based awarding and simplification and better access for SMEs.

Why FIEC is dealing with this topic:

FIEC is involved in the topic of public procurement because it represents a major source of activity for the construction sector in Europe. A significant share of construction work—particularly in infrastructure, housing, and public projects - is financed by public funds. It is therefore essential that companies in the sector have fair and competitive access to public procurement opportunities.

The current EU framework poses several challenges: excessive complexity, increasing use of direct awards or in-house procurement, unequal access across Member States, and downward pressure on prices at the expense of quality. These issues directly affect the ability of companies, to participate effectively in public tenders.

As the federation representing the interests of construction companies at European level, FIEC’s role is to ensure that the rules are adapted to the specificities of the sector, promote fair competition, support innovation, and allow for the effective integration of environmental and social objectives while remaining realistic and proportionate.

Actions and key dates:

04/12/2023 – The European Court of [Auditors publish its Special Report 28/2023](#)

05/12/2024 – Publication of FIEC’s [Position Paper](#) on the current EU public procurement framework.

07/03/2025 – FIEC submits its **official contribution** to the European Commission’s evaluation of the 2014 *Public Procurement Directives* (2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU).

18/03/2025 – The European Parliament’s IMCO Committee publishes its **Draft Report** on public procurement (Rapporteur: Piotr Müller).

08/04/2025 – FIEC sends its **comments and proposed amendments** to the draft report.

09/09/2025 – European Parliament adopts its [Own-Initiative Report on Public Procurement](#), outlining Parliament’s priorities for the future revision of the EU procurement directives.