

Public procurement, service and works contracts: coordination of procedures for the award, classical directive

2000/0115(COD) - 16/10/2001

The committee adopted the report by Stefano ZAPPALA (EPP-ED, I) broadly approving the proposal under the codecision procedure (1st reading), subject to a number of amendments. On the controversial issue of thresholds (i.e. the amount above which a public contract will be subject to Community rules), the committee called for a 32%-53% increase in the various thresholds compared to the amounts proposed by the Commission, arguing that with the existing thresholds there had been no growth in cross-border trade in public procurement contracts, while the administrative costs incurred by local authorities putting work out to tender were disproportionately high. Several amendments called for environmental and social criteria to be better reflected in public procurement procedures - for example to boost employment for disadvantaged people or to promote equality in the workplace - provided these criteria were compatible with Community law and complied with the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination. Other amendments sought to tidy up the Commission's proposal on issues such as the personal, economic or financial standing or the professional capability of tenderers. The committee said that anyone with recent convictions for crimes such as racketeering, money-laundering or fraud should be excluded from tendering, as should those who were bankrupt. Finally, the committee adopted a large number of technical amendments aimed at clarifying and strengthening the proposal on issues such as the definition of public works contracts, the central purchasing groups, the framework agreements, the need for confidentiality etc.