

K4I Forum Dinner Debate

“Public Procurement in Support of Innovation”

Wednesday, 13 April 2011, 20h00 – 22h00

Salons des Membres, European Parliament, 60 Rue Wiertz, 1047 Brussels

Accounting for about 17% of the EU’s GDP, public procurement constitutes a gigantic market with an enormous potential for supporting innovation. Two specifically interesting instruments are pre-commercial public procurement (PCP) and innovation deployment procurement. However, as opposed to the US and various other countries, the potential to foster innovation through public procurement remains largely untapped in Europe. A strategic approach is missing and public procurement objectives are mostly disconnected from higher-level public objectives. Other problems are difficulties for SMEs to participate in this market and the fragmentation of public procurement markets in Europe. The European Commission has recognised this situation in its Innovation Union proposal (action point 17) and in its Green Paper on the modernisation of EU public procurement and launched a public consultation on this matter (ending on 18 April). The K4I Dinner Debate on Public Procurement, with a focus on PCP and on innovation deployment procurement, will discuss which measures are necessary in order to make public procurement across the EU more modern and innovation-friendly. More specifically, the questions will be:

- What have been the experiences in the EU so far and can we learn from the US and from various other forerunners (UK, NL)?
- What is the best model to be deployed in the EU, and what is the best way to engage Member States?
- How to set the right incentives for procurers?
- How to facilitate SME access?
- How to facilitate joint procurements by different procurers (incl. cross-border)?
- What role can public procurement play in the context of innovation partnerships?

Welcome and Introduction

Antonio Fernando Correia de Campos, MEP, Member of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, Member of the K4I Forum of the European Parliament Governing Board

Speakers

Ulf Dahlsten, Principal Adviser, DG InfSo, European Commission

Bertrand Wert, Policy Development for Industrial Innovation, DG ENTR, European Commission

Heide Rühle, MEP, Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Sinan Tumer, Head of International Research Policy, SAP Research

Marieke van Putten, Project Manager Public Procurement of Innovation, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation

The introductions will be followed by a discussion with the participants.