

# **Public hearing on the initiative on access of third countries to the EU's public procurement market**

**Brussels, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 9:30 – 13:00**

**Charlemagne Building, Sicco Mansholt Room**

**170, Rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels**

Through international commitments (WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and bilateral/regional FTAs), the EU has consistently pushed for an ambitious opening of international public procurement markets and has committed itself to granting market access to its public procurement market for certain foreign goods, services and companies.

In contrast to the EU's policy favouring greater openness, many other countries are reluctant to (further) open their public procurement markets to international competition, which limits business opportunities for EU companies in these markets. Similarly, some trading partners have maintained or introduced protectionist measures hitting EU companies.

In this context, the Commission is currently carrying out an impact assessment analysing how to set proportionate, coherent and effective terms of access to the EU public procurement market for foreign goods, services and companies.

As part of the impact assessment being conducted on this initiative, the Commission launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 a public consultation seeking the views of interested stakeholders on the current situation on the public procurement market of the EU and of third countries and on the (possible) effects of EU legislation in this field. To access the stakeholders consultation please visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/consultations/2011/access\\_EU\\_public\\_procurement\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2011/access_EU_public_procurement_en.htm)

In addition, **the Commission will be organising a public hearing on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011, for which registration is now possible.** This hearing is open to all interested stakeholders. Simultaneous translation will be available in English, French and German.

The tentative agenda of this hearing is currently as follows:

9:00 – 9h30	Registration of participants
9:30	Introduction
9:40	Presentation of the context, objectives and policy options of the initiative and of the on-line questionnaire for stakeholders
10:15	Questions and answers
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	Exchange of views on the initiative
12:45	Closing remarks

**The deadline for registration is the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.** Requests for registration should be sent to [markt-trade-procurement-initiative@ec.europa.eu](mailto:markt-trade-procurement-initiative@ec.europa.eu). A confirmation e-mail will be sent. Seating capacity is limited; the places for participants will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The outcomes of the consultation and hearing will be made public.

