



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Opinion on the Green Paper on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy - Towards a more efficient European Procurement Market {COM(2011) 15 final}.

The Commission has taken note of your suggestion to focus its work on some selected topics further elaborated in your contribution. In fact your comments concern questions that the Commission has also prioritised: it is indeed necessary to simplify the rules and work towards solutions ensuring that small and medium-sized companies can more easily access the public procurement market. It is also necessary to clarify the possibilities for co-operation between public authorities and for taking innovative solutions and environmental and social questions into account.

Your contribution also contains balanced ideas on how you would approach these selected topics, which have been considered in the preparatory work for the public procurement package adopted on 20 December 2011.

These proposals are part of an overall programme aiming at an in-depth modernization of public procurement in the European Union. This programme includes the revision of Directive 2004/17/EC (procurement in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors) and 2004/18/EC (public works, supply and service contracts), as well as the adoption of a directive on concessions, which were until now only partially regulated at European level {COM(2011) 895, 896 and 897}.

I look forward to continuing our dialogue on these important issues, whilst apologising for the extremely long delay in replying to the Riksdag's Opinion.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

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