Consultation on Remedies in Public Procurement

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

There are two Directives laying down remedies in relation to public procurement: Directive 89/665/EEC, which covers the public sector, and Directive 92/13/EEC, which covers the utilities sector. Both Directives were thoroughly amended by Directive 2007/66/EC.

The Remedies Directives require, as regards contracts falling within the scope of the Directives laying down substantive rules on public procurement (Directive 2004/17/EC and Directive 2004/18/EC, which are being replaced by Directive 2014/23/EU, Directive 2014/24/EU and Directive 2014/25/EU), that decisions taken by contracting authorities or contracting entities may be reviewed effectively and, in particular, as rapidly as possible, on the grounds that such decisions have infringed EU public procurement law. Member States must ensure that the review procedures are available at least to any person having or having had an interest in obtaining a particular contract and who has been or risks being harmed by an alleged infringement.

The Remedies Directives allow actions to be brought both before the contract is signed (pre-contractual remedies) and after (post-contractual remedies). Pre-contractual remedies are intended to correct the infringement of the public procurement rules in the course of the tendering procedure and in any event, before the contract becomes effective. These include the right of interim measures, a compulsory standstill period and the requirement to suspend the award procedure whilst the appeal is being investigated to prevent the award of the contract. On the other hand, post-contractual remedies aim to declare an existing contract ineffective and/or to provide compensation (mainly damages) to the affected parties after the contract in question has been awarded.


Furthermore, the Commission singled out Directive 2007/66/EC to undergo an evaluation under REFIT (Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme) in 2015. The objective of this evaluation is to assess the functioning of the provisions introduced by Directive 2007/66/EC.

This public consultation should be understood in the context of the above-mentioned report to the Parliament and the Council and evaluation under REFIT.

OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTATION

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the provisions of Directive 2007/66/EC on remedies in the field of public procurement
Identity of respondents

*Please indicate your Member State:

Germany

*Please identify yourself:

- (a) Citizen
- (b) Economic operator (e.g. a business)
- (c) Non-profit organisation
- (d) Academia
- (e) Lawyer
- (f) Other private entity (please specify)
- (g) Contracting authority
- (h) Contracting entity
- (i) First instance review body
- (j) Body of appeal against first instance remedy decision
- (k) Court conducting review if applicable in further instance
- (l) Other public authority (please specify)

Have you been involved in public procurement litigation over the last five years?

- Yes
- No

*Please enter your name/organisation and contact details (address, e-mail, website, phone)

Europabüro der bayerischen, baden-württembergischen und sächsischen Kommunen; info@ebbk.de;
www.ebbk.de und www.europabuero-bw.de;
0032 2 5490 700

Register ID number (if you/your organisation is registered in the EU Transparency register)
In the interests of transparency, your contribution will be published on the Commission’s website. How do you want it to appear?

- Under the name supplied? (I consent to the publication of all the information in my contribution, and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that would prevent publication.)
- Anonymously? (I consent to the publication of all the information in my contribution except my name/the name of my organisation, and I declare that none of it is subject to copyright restrictions that would prevent publication.
- No publication - your answer will not be published and in principle will not be considered.

Questions

All questions are optional

1. Have the Remedies Directives as modified by Directive 2007/66/EC helped public procurement process to become:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Partly</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More transparent (i.e. more information is available to all companies about the details of public contracts, how they have been awarded, and how parties may challenge decisions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairer (i.e. companies have the same opportunities to bid for public procurement contracts)</td>
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<td>More open and accessible (i.e. there are fewer barriers to companies participating in public procurement contracts, cross border procurement is easier)</td>
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<tr>
<td>More compelling for contracting authorities / entities to comply with the requirements of substantive Public Procurement Directives.</td>
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2. In your view, what are the most relevant provisions of the Remedies Directives as modified by Directive 2007/66/EC?

Please grade from 1 to 5, 1 being the least relevant:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provision</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automatic debrief to bidders at the time of the contract award decision notice</td>
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<td>‘Standstill period’ to be at least 10 days</td>
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<td>Minimum time limits for applying for a review</td>
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<td>Suspension of the contract award procedure where review proceedings are initiated</td>
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<td>The ability of an independent review body to render a contract award ineffective</td>
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<td>Alternative penalties (the imposition of fines on the contracting authority or the shortening of the duration of the contract)</td>
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<td>Voluntary <em>ex ante</em> transparency notice</td>
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<td>The possibility to award damages to persons harmed by an infringement</td>
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</table>

3. How long does a review procedure usually last for:
   3.1 interim measures?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Less than 1 month</th>
<th>Between 1 and three months</th>
<th>Between 3 and 6 months</th>
<th>Between 6 and 12 months</th>
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### 3.2 The setting aside of decisions taken unlawfully?

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### 3.3 Damages?

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### 3.4 Ineffectiveness?

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4. What is/should be the standard for review in public procurement cases in your jurisdiction?
   - Exclusively legal matter
   - Legal and technical matters

5. Is there any impact on time and/or standard for review depending on whether the case is dealt by a specialised review body or an ordinary court?
   - Yes
   - Partly
   - No

Please give examples

- Zeit zur Prüfung der Vergabekammer in der Regel 6 Wochen
- Ordentliche Gerichte brauchen wesentlich länger (Annahme, kein aktueller Fall)

6. To what extent are the Remedies Directives as modified by Directive 2007/66/EC sufficiently clear and precise?
   - Significantly
   - Moderately
   - Not at all

Please give examples of provisions/notions which are not clear or precise.

7. To what extent do the Remedies Directives as modified by Directive 2007/66/EC balance the interest of economic operators in ensuring the effectiveness of public procurement law and the interest of contracting authorities / entities in limiting frivolous litigation?
   - The balance is too much on the interest of economic operators
   - The balance is on the middle
   - The balance is too much on the interest of contracting authorities / entities

Please justify your views.

- Den Informations-, Bekanntmachungs- und Wartepflichten stehen Mindestfristen für die Beantragung der Nachprüfung gegenüber
- Transparente Vergabeverfahren
8. To your knowledge, has the remedy system in your Member State caused delays in the award of public contracts?
   - Yes, frequently
   - Only occasionally
   - No

   What was in your view the main reason for the delay (other than the use of the remedy itself):
   - National procedural rules not laid down in the Remedies Directives
   - Conduct of parties
   - Ineffectiveness of the national judicial system
   - Other (please specify)

9. Should interim measures be considered an effective remedy?
   - Yes
   - Yes, but only exceptionally
   - No

10. Should a standstill period be considered an effective remedy?
    - Yes
    - Yes, but only exceptionally
    - No

11. Should ineffectiveness be considered an effective remedy, in particular helping to tackle direct awards?
    - Yes
    - Yes, but only exceptionally
    - No

12. Should alternative penalties be considered an effective remedy?
    - Yes
    - Yes, but only exceptionally
    - No

13. Should damages be considered an effective remedy?
    - Yes
    - Yes, but only exceptionally
    - No
14. Do remedies exist for contracts below the EU thresholds in your jurisdiction?
- Yes, they are the same as for contracts above the EU thresholds
- Yes, but they are different from those intended for contracts above the EU thresholds
  (please specify the differences)
- No

Please specify the differences

- Keine Informations- und Wartepflichten;
- keine Unwirksamkeit von bereits geschlossenen Verträgen, aber Entschädigungsansprüche Übergangener Bieter im Rahmen des Sekundärrechtsschutzes;
- Möglichkeit einer einstweiligen Verfügung vor den Zivilgerichten;
- Keine Zuständigkeit der Vergabekammer.

15. Would alternative dispute resolution (ADR) /mediation prove operational in the context of public procurement disputes?
- Yes
- No

16. Do court fees apply to public procurement cases in your jurisdiction?
- Yes
- No

17. Do administrative fees apply to public procurement cases in your jurisdiction?
- Yes
- No

18. If the answer to questions 16 or 17 is affirmative, would you define the level of fees as dissuasive for users of the review and justice system?
- Yes (if possible, please specify)
- No

19. Are there any other costs (such as the cost of legal advice and representation) that may have an impact in access to justice in your jurisdiction?
- Yes (if possible, please specify)
- No

If possible, please specify

Kosten für Rechtsberatung, sofern diese in Anspruch genommen wird
20. Do you think there are still problems in addressing breaches in EU public procurement law?

☐ Yes (please briefly describe such problems)
☐ No

Additional comments (please specify to which question/questions they relate)


Zum Abbau der Bürokratie und Vereinfachung der Regelungen im Vergabeverfahren könnte allenfalls die Aufhebung der geltenden Regelungen dienen. Die nationalen Rechtsmittelverfahren sind in diesem Bereich ausreichend. Insbesondere besteht in Deutschland die Möglichkeit für die Bieter einen Antrag auf einstweiligen Rechtsschutz zu stellen. Die Unternehmen sind folglich bereits ausreichend geschützt, so dass europäische Regelungen in diesem Bereich entbehrlich sind.

Contact

✉️ GROW-CONSULTATION-PP-REMEDIES@ec.europa.eu