



## **Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health**

### **Drafting group meeting on Public procurement in healthcare systems (WebEx conference)**

**10 June 2020**

#### Minutes

#### **1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting**

The agenda was approved without changes as well as the minutes of the previous meeting.

#### **2. Nature of the meeting**

The third drafting group meeting on public procurement in healthcare systems took place on 10 June 2020 via WebEx conference. The meeting, which was chaired by Luigi Siciliani, Chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

#### **3. List of points discussed**

##### **Feedback/comments on the draft opinion on the public procurement in healthcare systems**

The first part of the general discussion was devoted to clarifications related to the aim of the opinion and its targeted audience. It would be welcome by COM if the opinion refers to important Commission documents such as the European Green Deal, Recovery plan for Europe, Guidance on innovation procurement, report on Strengthening strategic value chains, Communication on 2020 European Semester: Country-specific recommendations, and the recovery strategy and EU investments related thereto. Important elements such as, preliminary market consultation, competitive innovative purchases, institutional strength of public procurers should be taken into consideration. Public procurement should be perceived as a part of purchasing strategy, as a strategic tool to improve and modernise health systems.

It was agreed that COM will be consulted with regards to the presentation of the European legal framework of public procurement in order to avoid factual errors.

Members expressed opinion that some of mentioned elements could be elaborated in the opinion, notably referring to the professionalization of procurers and competition concerns, and the references to the most relevant documents added considering the agreed length of the opinion. COM agreed to suggest specific references and provide comments in writing.

Members stressed that the opinion is structured in a way that follows the questions defined in a mandate. The Chair of the Panel underlined that opinion does not necessarily reflect the views of the COM, it represents a critical reflection of independent scientists, it is not to be used as a basis of any juridical or legislative procedure and it does not aim to be a practical manual.

Members then went through individual chapters of the draft opinion. They raised several points, among others addition on environmental criteria, and problem of corruption which could be reflected under common challenges. Members highlighted that in the context of healthcare specificities the public procurement is very lengthy, complex and resource consuming process. The possible mechanisms of public procurement to incentivise local economy and encourage participation by SMEs were further discussed as well as the best ways on how to overbridge the research output on healthcare services with its concrete implementation. Members further commented on e-Health, openness of public procurement, and the use of joint procurement in time of crisis.

The Chair of the drafting group suggested to select headings in section titles that would convey the messages which would be very useful from a reader's perspective.

Members further mentioned the importance of sharing best practices across countries and the way how to present the examples in the opinion. The exploitation of public procurement as stimulation of innovation and technological transfer was highlighted.

### **Planning and organisation of the work in the drafting group**

The updated draft will be circulated to the members for their further input so a new draft could be available for a discussion in the next meeting. Members agreed that the public hearing to present the draft opinion will take place on 3 September as a WebEx conference. The public hearing open to all interested parties (including public procurement practitioners/experts) will give them an opportunity to share their views and provide specific comments on the draft opinion before it is finalised.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion to move forward with the opinion and stressed that the next meeting will focus mostly on recommendations.

#### **5. Next meeting**

The draft opinion will be discussed in the plenary meeting on 24 June. The next meeting of the drafting group will take place on 6 July 2020 via WebEx conference.

#### **6. List of participants**

##### **EXPH Members**

AZZOPARDI MUSCAT Natasha (apologies)  
DE MAESENEER Jan  
GARCIA-ALTES Anna  
GRUSON Damien

KRINGOS Dionne  
LEHTONEN Lasse  
LIONIS Christos  
MCKEE Martin  
MURASKIENE Liubove  
NUTI Sabina  
PITA BARROS Pedro  
ROGERS Heather-Lynn  
SICILIANI Luigi  
STAHL Dorothea  
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna  
ZACHAROV Sergej  
ZALETEL Jelka

**Research Fellow**

van SCHALKWYK May (apologies)

**DG GROW**

BAEYENS An  
BOUSSETTA Samira

**DG SANTE**

DAJKA Bela  
VAN DEN STEEN Dirk  
VOLOSINOVA Viera