socialplatform

Brussels, October 9, 2012

To: Ministers part of the Competitiveness Council

Re: Social Platform's recommendations on the proposal for a directive on public procurement

Dear Minister,

Tomorrow you will discuss the proposal for a directive on public procurement.

Social Platform is the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 45 pan-European networks of NGOs, We campaign to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives.

We call on you to take into consideration the following recommendations in your report.

Our main focus in the proposal goes to the following seven key issues:

AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND OTHER SERVICES

1. **Abolish the lowest cost as award criteria for social services and other services directly provided to the person; make quality a mandatory element in the award criteria for contracts concerning those services**
2. **Explicitly recognise the alternatives to public procurement in the provision of social services**
3. **Extend the possibility for contracting authorities to reserve markets for the provision of those services to non-profit organisations**
4. **Clarify the definition of social services throughout the text of the proposal for a directive and make reference to Protocol 26 on Services of General Interest**
5. **Take into account information on bidders' positive past performance in the selection criteria for contracts for social services**

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AS A TOOL TO ACHIEVE OTHER SOCIETAL GOALS

1. **Allow social considerations related to the production process of the good / work / service procured being included throughout the whole public procurement procedure**

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2. **Improve provisions on abnormally low bids to ensure that working conditions of workers involved in the production of goods / works / services procured are respected.**

We trust that you will give these issues your utmost attention and take our recommendations in your report.

Yours sincerely,





Conny Reuter

President

Pierre Baussand

Director