



EFFAT

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM TRADE UNIONS

Public procurement

State of affairs

June 2013

On 21 February 2013, the MEPs on the European Parliament's Internal Market Committee gave a mandate to the rapporteurs on the Public Procurement Directive to begin informal negotiations with the EU Member States. This trilogue involves the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission. The EP's negotiators, led by MEP Marc Tarabella (S&D, BE), are defending the Committee's commitment to ensure that public procurement contracts go to the most advantageous bidder, also taking into account environmental or social criteria and the need to consolidate innovation, instead of simply awarding contracts to the lowest bidder.

The Network for Sustainable Development in Public Procurement (NSDPP), which brings together trade unions, NGOs and fair trade organisations, drew up recommendations for the trilogue on public procurement and circulated them to key players in the trilogue. On 6 March 2013, EFFAT sent these recommendations to all member organisations asking them to raise the issues with their governments and IMCO contacts.

On 6 May 2013, UNI Europa, EFFAT, ETUC, EPSU and EFBWW sent a joint letter to DG MARKT announcing a day of action to be jointly organised on 28 May 2013 to raise awareness among EU decision-makers of the concrete consequences that a bad public procurement directive could have for working conditions. A delegation of around 300 workers gathered in front of the Internal Market and Services Directorate General (DG MARKT) in Brussels. The joint letter reiterated our main demands:

- better use of public money;
- eliminating the lowest cost criterion as the main criterion for the awarding of contracts;
- requiring compliance with labour law and collective agreements of the host country, extended to the whole subcontracting chain;
- excluding abnormally low bids to avoid a race to the bottom in wages and working conditions.

The trilogue negotiations are going to continue until the end of June.

Ø Need for action:

- The EFFAT Secretariat will continue cooperation with the NSDPP and the social partners to influence the legislative procedure.
- EFFAT member organisations should continue to lobby their national decision-makers and MEPs.