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Subject : Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the coordination of procedures for the award of public supply contracts, public service contracts and public works contracts

Delegations will find attached the compromise text for the above Directive as it emerged from the discussions in the Working Party and in the Permanent Representatives Committee.

Proposal for a
DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
on
**the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts,
public supply contracts and public service contracts**

Whereas:

- (1) Council Directives 92/50/EEC of 18 June 1992 relating to the coordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts ¹, 93/36/EEC of 14 June 1993 coordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts ² and 93/37/EEC of 14 June 1993 concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts ³ were last amended by Directive 97/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁴. On the occasion of new amendments, which are necessary to respond to requests for simplification and modernisation made by contracting authorities and economic operators alike in their responses to the Green Paper adopted by the Commission on 27 November 1996 ⁵, the Directive should therefore, in the interests of clarity, be recast.
- (2) The achievement of freedom of movement of goods in the matter of public supply contracts, and the achievement of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in the matter of public works contracts and public service contracts, for contracts concluded by the State, regional or local authorities and other public bodies requires not only the abolition of restrictions but also the implementation of provisions on the coordination of national procedures for the award of public supply contracts which are based on the rules governing these three freedoms and on the principles deriving therefrom, such as the principles of equal treatment, of which the principle of non-discrimination is no more than a specific expression, the principle of mutual recognition, the principle of proportionality and the principle of transparency, and the opening-up of public procurement to competition. These coordinating provisions should therefore be interpreted in accordance with both the aforementioned rules and principles and other rules of the Treaty.
- (3) Such coordinating provisions should comply as far as possible with current procedures and practices in each of the Member States.
- (3a) Member States must ensure that the participation of a body governed by public law as a tenderer in a procedure for the award of a public contract does not cause any distortion of competition in relation to private tenderers.

¹ OJ L 209, 24.7.1992, p. 1.

² OJ L 199, 9.8.1993, p. 1.

³ OJ L 199, 9.8.1993, p. 54.

⁴ OJ L 328, 28.11.1997, p. 1.

⁵ COM(96) 583 final.

- (2a) Under Article 6 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies and activities referred to in Article 3 of that Treaty, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.

This Directive therefore clarifies how the contracting authorities may contribute to the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development, whilst ensuring that the contracting authorities are in a position to obtain best value for money for those contracts.

- (3c) Nothing in this Directive shall prevent the imposition or enforcement of measures necessary to protect public morality, public policy, public security, health, human and animal life or the preservation of plant life, in particular with a view to sustainable development, provided that these measures are in conformity with the Treaty.
- (4) Council Decision 94/800/EC of 22 December 1994 concerning the conclusion on behalf of the European Community, as regards matters within its competence, of the Agreements reached in the Uruguay Round multilateral negotiations (1986 to 1994) ⁶, approved in particular the Agreement on Government Procurement, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", the aim of which is to establish a multilateral framework of balanced rights and obligations relating to public contracts with a view to achieving the liberalisation and expansion of world trade. In view of the international rights and commitments devolving on the Community as a result of the acceptance of the Agreement, the arrangements to be applied to tenderers and products from signatory third countries are those defined by the Agreement. This Agreement does not have direct effect. The contracting authorities covered by the Agreement which comply with this Directive and which apply the same provisions as regards economic operators of third countries which are signatories to the Agreement must therefore be in conformity with the Agreement. It is also appropriate that those coordinating provisions should guarantee for Community economic operators conditions for participation in public procurement which are just as favourable as those reserved for economic operators of third countries which are signatories to the Agreement.
- (16) Before launching a procedure for the award of a contract, contracting authorities may, using a technical dialogue, seek or accept advice which may be used in the preparation of the specifications provided, however, that such advice does not have the effect of precluding competition.
- (2b) In view of the diversity of public works contracts, contracting authorities must be able to make provision for contracts for the design and execution of work to be awarded either separately or jointly. It is not the intention of this Directive to prescribe either joint or separate contract awards. The decision to award contracts separately or jointly must be determined by qualitative and economic criteria, which may be defined by national law.

⁶ OJ L 336, 23.12.1994, p. 1.

A contract shall be deemed to be a public works contract only if its subject-matter specifically covers the execution of activities listed in Annex I, even if the contract covers the provision of other services necessary for the execution of such activities. Public service contracts, including in the area of property management services, may in certain circumstances include works. However, if such works are incidental to the principal subject-matter of the contract, and are a consequence thereof or a complement thereto, the fact that such works are included in the contract does not justify the qualification of the contract as a public works contract.

- (19) A Community definition of framework agreements, together with specific rules on framework agreements concluded for contracts falling within the scope of this Directive, should be provided. Under these rules, when a contracting authority enters into a framework agreement in accordance with the provisions of this Directive relating, among other things, to advertising, time-limits and conditions for the submission of tenders, it may enter into contracts based on such framework agreement during its term of validity either by applying the terms set forth in the framework agreement or, if all terms have not been fixed in advance, by reopening competition between the parties to the framework agreement. The reopening of competition should comply with certain rules the aim of which is to guarantee the required flexibility and to guarantee respect for the general principles, including the principle of equal treatment. For the same reasons, the term of the framework agreements should not exceed four years, except in cases duly justified by the contracting authorities.
- (31a) Certain new electronic purchasing techniques are continuously being developed. Such techniques will help increase competition and streamline public purchasing, particularly in terms of the savings in time and money which their use will allow. Contracting authorities may make use of electronic purchasing techniques, providing such use complies with the rules drawn up under this Directive and the principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency.

To that extent, a tender submitted by a tenderer, in particular where competition has been reopened under a framework agreement or where a dynamic purchasing system has been introduced, may take the form of that tenderer's electronic catalogue⁷ if the latter uses the means of communication chosen by the contracting authority in accordance with Article 42.

- (31b) In view of the rapid expansion of electronic purchasing systems, appropriate rules should now be introduced to enable contracting authorities to take full advantage of the possibilities afforded by these systems. Against this background, it is necessary to define a completely electronic dynamic purchasing system for common purchases, and lay down specific rules for setting up and operating such a system in order to ensure the fair treatment of any economic operator who wishes to take part therein. Any economic operator which submits an indicative tender in accordance with the specification and meets the selection criteria must be allowed to

⁷ P delegation: linguistic reservation on the electronic "package".

join such a system. This purchasing technique allows the contracting authority, through the establishment of a list of tenderers already selected and the opportunity given to new tenderers to take part, to have a particularly broad range of tenders as a result of the electronic facilities available, and hence to ensure optimum use of public funds through broad competition.

- (31c) Since use of the technique of electronic auctions is likely to increase, such auctions should be given a Community definition and governed by specific rules in order to ensure that they operate in full accordance with the principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and transparency; to that end, provision should be made for such electronic auctions to deal only with contracts for works, supplies or services of which the specifications can be determined with precision. With the same objective, it ought also to be possible to establish the respective ranking of the tenderers at any stage of the electronic auction. Recourse to electronic auctions enables contracting authorities to ask tenderers to submit new prices, revised downwards, and when the contract is awarded to the most economically advantageous tender, also to improve elements of the tenders other than prices. However, in order to guarantee compliance with the principle of transparency, only the elements suitable for automatic evaluation by electronic means, without any intervention by the contracting authority, may be improved. To this end, such elements must be quantifiable so that they can be expressed in figures or percentages.
- (31d) Certain centralised purchasing techniques have been developed in Member States. Several contracting authorities are responsible for making acquisitions or awarding public contracts/framework agreements for other contracting authorities. In view of the large volumes purchased, those techniques help increase competition and streamline public purchasing. Provision should therefore be made for a Community definition of central purchasing bodies dedicated to contracting authorities. A definition should also be given of the conditions under which, in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment, contracting authorities purchasing works, supplies and/or services through a central purchasing body may be deemed to have complied with the provisions of this Directive.
- (31e) In order to take account of the different circumstances obtaining in Member States, Member States should be allowed to choose whether contracting authorities may use framework agreements, central purchasing bodies, dynamic purchasing systems or electronic auctions, as defined and regulated by this Directive.
- (5) Multiplying the number of thresholds for applying the coordinating provisions complicates matters for contracting authorities. Furthermore, in the context of monetary union such thresholds should be established in euro. Accordingly, thresholds should be set, in euro, in such a way as to simplify the application of such provisions, while at the same time ensuring compliance with the thresholds provided for by the Agreement which are expressed in special drawing rights. In this context, provision should also be made for periodic reviews of the thresholds expressed in euro so as to adjust them, where necessary, in line with possible negative variations in the value of the euro in relation to the special drawing right.

- (14) The field of services is best delineated, for the purpose of applying the procedural rules of this Directive and for monitoring purposes, by subdividing it into categories corresponding to particular headings of a common classification and by bringing them together in two Annexes, IIA and IIB, according to the regime to which they are subject. As regards services in Annex IIB, the relevant provisions of this Directive should be without prejudice to the application of Community rules specific to the services in question.
- (15) As regards public service contracts, full application of this Directive must be limited, for a transitional period, to contracts where its provisions will permit the full potential for increased cross-frontier trade to be realised. Contracts for other services need to be monitored during this transitional period before a decision is taken on the full application of this Directive. In this respect, the mechanism for such monitoring needs to be defined. This mechanism must, at the same time, enable interested parties to have access to the relevant information.
- (16) Public contracts which are awarded by the contracting authorities operating in the water, energy and transport sectors and which fall within the scope of those activities are covered by Directive .../..EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and by the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy and transport sectors.⁸ However, contracts awarded by the contracting authorities in the context of their service activities for maritime, coastal or river transport must fall within the scope of this Directive.
- (7) In view of the situation of effective market competition in the telecommunications sector following the implementation of the Community rules aiming to liberalise that sector, public contracts in that area should be excluded from the scope of this Directive insofar as they are intended primarily to allow the contracting authorities to exercise certain activities in the telecommunications sector. Those activities are defined in accordance with the definitions used in Articles 1, 2 and 8 of Directive 93/38/EEC such that this Directive does not apply to contracts which have been excluded from the scope of Directive 93/38/EEC pursuant to Article 8 thereof.
- (8) Provision should be made for cases in which it is impossible to apply the measures for coordinating procedures on grounds relating to State security or secrecy, or because specific rules on the awarding of contracts which derive from international agreements, relate to the stationing of troops or are specific to international organisations are applicable.

⁸ OJ L

Public contracts awarded by contracting authorities in their own name and on their own behalf and intended for third countries receiving development aid are covered by this Directive, without prejudice to the specific exceptions which it provides for⁹.

- (9) Pursuant to Article 163 of the Treaty, the encouragement of research and development is a means of strengthening the scientific and technological basis of European industry, and the opening-up of public procurement contributes to this end. This Directive should not cover the cofinancing of research and development programmes: research and development contracts other than those where the benefits accrue exclusively to the contracting authority for its use in the conduct of its own affairs, on condition that the service provided is wholly remunerated by the contracting authority, are not therefore covered by this Directive.
- (10) In the context of services, contracts for the acquisition or rental of immovable property or rights to such property have particular characteristics which make the application of procurement rules inappropriate.
- (11) The awarding of public contracts for certain audiovisual services in the field of broadcasting should allow aspects of cultural or social significance to be taken into account which render application of procurement rules inappropriate. For these reasons, an exception must therefore be made for public service contracts for the purchase, development, production or co-production of off-the-shelf programmes and other preparatory services, such as those relating to scripts or artistic performances necessary for the production of the programme and contracts concerning broadcasting times. However, this exclusion does not apply to the supply of technical equipment necessary for the production, co-production and broadcasting of such programmes.
- (12) Arbitration and conciliation services are usually provided by bodies or individuals designated or selected in a manner which cannot be governed by procurement rules.
- (13) In accordance with the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement the financial services covered by this Directive do not include instruments of monetary policy, exchange rates, public debt, reserve management or other policies involving transactions in securities or other financial instruments, in particular transactions by the contracting authorities to raise money or capital. Accordingly, contracts relating to the issue, purchase, sale or transfer of securities or other financial instruments are not covered. Central bank services are also excluded.¹⁰

⁹ Scrutiny reservations by the B/D/EL/I/P/S and UK delegations and parliamentary reservation by the DK delegation.

¹⁰ Reservation by the B delegation (see also Article 18(d)). The Commission shares the B delegation's interpretation as regards obligations under the WTO.

- (17) The technical specifications drawn up by public purchasers need to allow public procurement to be opened up to competition. To this end, it must be possible to submit tenders which reflect the diversity of technical solutions. Accordingly, it must be possible to draw up the technical specifications in terms of functional performance and requirements, and, where reference is made to the European standard or, in the absence thereof, to the national standard, tenders based on equivalent arrangements must be considered by contracting authorities. To demonstrate equivalence, tenderers should be permitted to use any form of evidence. Contracting authorities must be able to provide a reason for any decision that equivalence does not exist in a given case.

Contracting authorities that wish to define environmental requirements for the technical specifications of a given contract may lay down the environmental characteristics and/or specific environmental effects of product groups or services. They can, but are not obliged to, use appropriate specifications that are defined in eco-labels, such as the European Eco-label, (multi-)national eco-labels or any other eco-label providing the requirements for the label are drawn up and adopted on the basis of scientific information using a procedure in which stakeholders, such as government bodies, consumers, manufacturers, retail and environmental organisations can participate, and providing the label is accessible and available to all interested parties.

- (21) Additional information concerning contracts must, as is customary in Member States, be given in the contract documents for each contract or else in an equivalent document.
- (18) Contracting authorities which carry out exceptionally complex projects may, without this being due to any blame on their part, find it objectively impossible to define the means of satisfying their needs or of assessing what the market can offer in the way of technical solutions and/or financial/legal solutions. This situation may arise in particular with the implementation of important integrated transport infrastructure projects, large computer networks, projects involving complex and structured financing the financial and legal make-up of which cannot be defined in advance. To the extent that use of open or restricted procedures does not allow the award of such contracts, a flexible procedure should be provided which preserves not only competition between economic operators but also the need for the contracting authorities to discuss all aspects of the contract with each candidate. However, this procedure must not be used in such a way as to restrict or distort competition, particularly by altering any fundamental aspects of the offers, or by imposing substantial new requirements on the successful tenderer, or by involving any tenderer other than the one selected as the most economically advantageous.
- (35) In order to favour the access of small and medium-sized undertakings to the public procurement market, it is advisable to include provisions on subcontracting.

(22) Contract performance conditions are compatible with the Directive provided that they are not directly or indirectly discriminatory and are indicated in the contract notice or in the contract documents. They may in particular be intended to favour on-site vocational training, employment of people experiencing particular difficulty in achieving integration, to fight against unemployment or to protect the environment. For instance, mention may be made, amongst other things, of the requirements – applicable during performance of the contract – to recruit long-term job-seekers or to implement training measures for the unemployed or young persons, to comply in substance with the provisions of the basic ILO Conventions, assuming that such provisions have not been implemented in national law, and to recruit more handicapped persons than are required under national legislation.

(22a) The laws, regulations and collective agreements, at both national and Community level, which are in force in the areas of welfare and safety apply during performance of a public contract, providing that such rules, and their application, comply with Community legislation. In cross-border situations, where workers from one Member State provide services in another Member State for the purpose of performing a public contract, Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services¹¹ lays down the minimum conditions which must be observed by the host country in respect of such posted workers.

If national law contains provisions to this effect, non-compliance with those obligations may be considered to be grave misconduct or an offence concerning the professional conduct of the economic operator concerned, liable to lead to the exclusion of that economic operator from the procedure for the award of a public contract.

(23) In view of new developments in information and communications technology, and the simplifications these can bring in terms of publicising contracts and the efficiency and transparency of procurement processes, electronic means should be put on a par with traditional means of communication and information exchange. As far as possible, the means and technology chosen must be compatible with the technologies used in other Member States.

(20) To ensure development of effective competition in the field of public contracts, it is necessary that contract notices drawn up by the contracting authorities of Member States be advertised throughout the Community. The information contained in these notices must enable economic operators in the Community to determine whether the proposed contracts are of interest to them. For this purpose, it is appropriate to give them adequate information on the works undertaken and the conditions attached thereto. Improved visibility should therefore be ensured for public notices by means of appropriate instruments, such as standard contract

¹¹ OJ L 18, 21.1.1997, p. 1.

notice forms and the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) provided for in Regulation (EC) No... of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹² as the reference nomenclature for public contracts. In restricted procedures, advertisement is intended to enable contractors of Member States to express their interest in contracts by seeking from the contracting authorities invitations to tender under the required conditions.

- (24) Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 1999 on a Community framework for electronic signatures ¹³ and Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market ¹⁴ must, in the context of this Directive, apply to the transmission of information by electronic means. The public procurement procedures and the rules applicable to service contests require a level of security and confidentiality higher than that required by these Directives. Accordingly, the devices for the electronic receipt of offers, requests to participate and plans and projects must comply with specific additional requirements. On the other hand, the existence of voluntary accreditation schemes can constitute a favourable framework for enhancing the level of certification service provision for these devices.
- (25) The use of electronic means leads to savings in time. As a result, provision should be made for reducing the minimum periods where electronic means are used, subject, however, to the condition that they are compatible with the specific mode of transmission envisaged at Community level.
- (29) Verification of the suitability of tenderers, in open procedures, and of candidates, in restricted and negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice and in the competitive dialogue, and the selection thereof, must be carried out in transparent conditions. For this purpose, non-discriminatory criteria should be indicated which the contracting authorities may use when selecting competitors and the means which economic operators may use to prove they have satisfied those criteria. In the same spirit of transparency, the contracting authority must be required, as soon as a contract is put out to competition, to indicate the selection criteria it will use and the level of specific competence it may or may not demand of the economic operators before admitting them to the procurement procedure.
- (27) A contracting authority may limit the number of candidates in the restricted and negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice, and in the competitive dialogue. Such reduction of candidates must be done on the basis of objective criteria indicated in the contract notice. For criteria relating to the personal situation of economic operators, a general reference in the contract notice to the situations set out in Article 46 may suffice.

¹² OJ L

¹³ OJ L 13, 19.1.2000, p. 12.

¹⁴ OJ L 178, 17.7.2000, p. 1.

- (27a) In the competitive dialogue and negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice, in view of the flexibility which may be required and the high level of costs associated with such methods of procurement, contracting authorities should be entitled to make provision for the procedure to be conducted in successive stages in order gradually to reduce, on the basis of previously indicated contract award criteria, the number of tenders which they will go on to discuss and negotiate. This reduction must, insofar as the number of appropriate solutions or candidates allows, ensure that there is genuine competition.
- (30) The relevant Community rules on mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates or other evidence of formal qualifications apply when evidence of a particular qualification is required for participation in a procurement procedure or a design contest.
- (30a) The award of public contracts to economic operators who have participated in a criminal organisation or who have been found guilty of corruption or of fraud to the detriment of the financial interests of the European Communities or of money laundering must be avoided. Where appropriate, the contracting authorities must ask candidates or tenderers to supply relevant documents and, where they have doubts concerning the personal situation of a candidate or tenderer, they may seek the cooperation of the competent authorities of the Member State concerned. The exclusion of such economic operators should take place as soon as the contracting authority has knowledge of a judgment concerning such offences rendered in accordance with national law that has the force of *res judicata*.

If national law contains provisions to this effect, non-compliance with environmental legislation or legislation on unlawful agreements in public contracts which has been the subject of a definitive judgment or a decision having equivalent effect may be considered an offence concerning the professional conduct of the economic operator concerned or grave misconduct.

- (30b) In appropriate cases, in which the nature of the works and/or services justifies applying environmental management measures or schemes during the performance of a public contract, the application of such measures or schemes may be required. Environmental management schemes, whether or not they are registered under Community instruments (EMAS Regulation), can demonstrate that the economic operator has the technical capability to perform the contract. Moreover, a description of the measures implemented by the economic operator to ensure the same level of environmental protection must be accepted as an alternative to environmental management registration schemes as a form of evidence.
- (30c) The Directive allows Member States to establish official lists of contractors, suppliers or service providers or a system of certification by public or private bodies, and makes provision for the effects of such registration or such certification in a contract award procedure in another Member State.

As regards official lists of approved economic operators, it is important to take into account Court of Justice case law in cases where an economic operator belonging to a group claims the economic, financial or technical capabilities of other companies in the group in support of its application for registration. In this case, it is for the economic operator to prove that those resources will actually be available to it throughout the period of validity of the registration. For the purposes of that registration, a Member State may therefore determine the level of requirements to be met and in particular, for example where the operator lays claim to the financial standing of another company in the group, it may require that that company be held liable, if necessary jointly and severally.

- (31) The contract must be awarded on the basis of objective criteria which ensure compliance with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and equality of treatment and which guarantee that tenders are assessed in conditions of effective competition. As a result, it is appropriate to allow the application of two award criteria only: "the lowest price" and "the most economically advantageous tender".

To ensure compliance with the principle of equality of treatment in the award of contracts, it is appropriate to lay down an obligation - established by case law - to ensure the necessary transparency to enable all tenderers to be reasonably informed of the criteria and arrangements which will be applied to identify the most economically advantageous tender. It is therefore the responsibility of contracting authorities to indicate the criteria for the award of the contract and the relative weighting given to each of those criteria in sufficient time for tenderers to be aware of them when preparing their tenders. Contracting authorities may derogate from indicating the criteria for the award of the contract in duly justified cases for which they must be able to give reasons, where the weighting cannot be established in advance, in particular on account of the complexity of the contract. In such cases, they must indicate the descending order of importance of the criteria.

Where the contracting authorities choose to award a contract to the most economically advantageous tender, they shall assess the tenders in order to determine which one offers the best value for money. In order to do this, they shall determine the economic and quality criteria which, taken as a whole, must enable the contracting authority to determine the most economically advantageous tender. The determination of these criteria depends on the object of the contract since they must allow the level of performance offered by each tender to be assessed in the light of the object of the contract, as defined in the technical specifications, and the value for money of each tender to be measured. In order to guarantee equal treatment, the criteria for the award of the contract must enable tenders to be compared and assessed objectively. If these conditions are fulfilled, economic and qualitative criteria for the award of the contract, such as meeting environmental requirements, may enable the contracting authority to meet the needs of the public authority concerned, as expressed

in the specifications of the contract. Under the same conditions, a contracting authority may use criteria aiming to meet social requirements in response to the needs - defined in the specifications of the contract - of particularly disadvantaged groups of people to which those receiving/using the works, supplies or services which are the object of the contract belong.¹⁵

- (33) In the case of public service contracts, the award criteria should not affect the application of national provisions on the remuneration of certain services, such as, for example, the services performed by architects, engineers or lawyers.
- (34) Certain technical conditions, and in particular those concerning notices and statistical reports, as well as the nomenclature used and the conditions of reference to that nomenclature, will need to be adopted and amended in the light of changing technical requirements. The lists of contracting authorities in the Annexes will also need to be updated. It is, therefore, appropriate to put in place a flexible and rapid adoption procedure for this purpose. In accordance with Article 2 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission¹⁶, the measures necessary for implementation of this Directive should be taken in accordance with the advisory procedure in Article 3 of the Decision.
- (28) Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time-limits¹⁷ will apply to the calculation of the time-limits contained in this Directive.
- (36) This Directive should not prejudice the time-limits set out in Annex XII, within which Member States are required to comply with Directives 93/37/EEC, 93/36/EEC and 92/50/EEC.

¹⁵ Reservations by the B/F/NL and S delegations on the wording of recital 31; they would prefer the social criteria to be mentioned here or, as an alternative, in the list of examples in Article 53(1). The A/EL/IRL/I/P and UK delegations and the Commission were against this.

¹⁶ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

¹⁷ OJ L 124, 8.6.1971, p. 1.

TITLE I

Definitions and general principles

Article 1

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Directive, the definitions set out in paragraphs 2 to 12 shall apply.
2. (a) "Public contracts" are contracts for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between one or more economic operators and one or more contracting authorities and having as their object the execution of works, the supply of products or the provision of services within the meaning of this Directive.

(b) "Public works contracts" are public contracts having as their object either the execution, or both the execution and design, of works related to one of the activities within the meaning of Annex I or of a work, or the realisation, by whatever means, of a work corresponding to the requirements specified by the contracting authority. A "work" means the outcome of building or civil engineering works taken as a whole which is sufficient of itself to fulfil an economic or technical function.

(c) "Public supply contracts" are public contracts other than those referred to in (b) having as their object the purchase, lease, rental or hire purchase, with or without option to buy, of products.

A public contract having as its object the delivery of products and which also covers, as an incidental matter, the siting and installation operations shall be considered to be a "public supply contract".

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- (d) "Public service contracts" are public contracts other than public works or supply contracts having as their object the provision of services mentioned in Annex II.

A public contract having as its object both products and services within the meaning of Annex II shall be considered to be a "public service contract" if the value of the services in question exceeds that of the products covered by the contract.

A public contract having as its object services within the meaning of Annex II and including activities within the meaning of Annex I that are only incidental to the principal object of the contract shall be considered to be a public service contract.

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3. "Public works concession" is a contract of the same type as a public works contract except for the fact that the consideration for the works to be carried out consists either solely in the right to exploit the work or in this right together with payment.

- 3a. "Service concession" is a contract of the same type as a public service contract except for the fact that the consideration for the provision of services consists either solely in the right to exploit the service or in this right together with payment.¹⁸
5. A "framework agreement" is an agreement between one or more contracting authorities and one or more economic operators, the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing contracts to be awarded during a given period, in particular with regard to price and, where appropriate, the quantity envisaged.
- 5a. A "dynamic purchasing system" is a completely electronic process for making common purchases, the characteristics of which as generally available on the market meet the requirements of the contracting authority, limited in duration and open throughout its validity to any economic operator which satisfies the selection criteria and has submitted an indicative tender that complies with the specification.
- 5b. An "electronic auction" is a repetitive process involving an electronic device for the presentation of new prices, revised downwards, and/or new values concerning certain elements of tenders, which occurs after an initial full evaluation of the tenders enabling them to be ranked using automatic evaluation methods.
6. The terms "contractor", "supplier" and "service provider" mean any natural or legal person or public entity or group of such persons and/or bodies which offers on the market, respectively, products, services or the execution of works.

The term "economic operator" as used in this Directive shall cover equally the concepts of contractor, supplier and service provider. It is used merely in the interest of simplification.

An economic operator who has submitted a tender shall be designated by the term "tenderer". One who has sought an invitation to take part in a restricted or negotiated procedure or a competitive dialogue shall be designated by the term "candidate".

7. "Contracting authorities" means the State, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law, associations formed by one or several of such authorities or one or several of such bodies governed by public law.

A "body governed by public law" means any body:

- (a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character,

¹⁸ Reservation by the F delegation.

(b) having legal personality

and

(c) financed, for the most part, by the State, or regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; or subject to management supervision by those bodies; or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law.

Non-exhaustive lists of bodies and categories of bodies governed by public law which fulfil the criteria referred to in the second subparagraph are set out in Annex III. Member States shall periodically notify the Commission of any changes to their lists of bodies and categories of bodies.

7a. A "central purchasing body" is a contracting authority which:

- acquires supplies and/or services intended for contracting authorities or
- awards public contracts or concludes framework agreements for works, supplies or services intended for contracting authorities.

8. "Open procedures" means those procedures whereby any interested economic operator may submit a tender.

"Restricted procedures" means those procedures in which any economic operator may request to participate and whereby only those economic operators invited by the contracting authority may submit a tender.

"Competitive dialogue" is a procedure in which any economic operator may request to participate and whereby the contracting authority conducts a dialogue with the candidates admitted to that procedure, with the aim of developing one or more several suitable alternatives to meet its requirements, and on the basis of which the candidates chosen are invited to tender.

"Negotiated procedures" means those procedures whereby the contracting authorities consult the economic operators of their choice and negotiate the terms of contract with one or more of these.

"Design contests" means those procedures which enable the contracting authority to acquire, mainly in the fields of town and country planning, architecture and engineering or data processing, a plan or design selected by a jury after being put out to competition with or without the award of prizes.

9. "Written" or "in writing" means any expression consisting of words or figures which can be read, reproduced and subsequently communicated. It may include information which is transmitted and stored by electronic means.
10. "Electronic means" means using electronic equipment for the processing (including digital compression) and storage of data transmitted, conveyed and received by wire, by radio, by optical means or by other electromagnetic means.
11. The "Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV)" shall designate the reference nomenclature applicable to public contracts as adopted by Regulation .../..., while ensuring equivalence with the other existing nomenclatures.

In the event of varying interpretations of the scope of this Directive, owing to possible differences between the CPV and NACE nomenclatures listed in Annex I or between the CPV and CPC (provisional version) nomenclatures listed in Annex II, the NACE and CPC nomenclatures shall apply respectively.

12. For the purposes of Article 15, Article 58(2) and Article 65(1), the following phrases shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) "public telecommunications network" means the public telecommunications infrastructure which enables signals to be conveyed between defined network termination points by wire, by microwave, by optical means or by other electromagnetic means;
 - (b) a "network termination point" means all physical connections and their technical access specifications which form part of the public telecommunications network and are necessary for access to, and efficient communication through, that public network;
 - (c) "public telecommunications services" means telecommunications services the provision of which the Member States have specifically assigned to, inter alia, one or more telecommunications entities;
 - (d) "telecommunications services" means services the provision of which consists wholly or partly in the transmission and routing of signals on the public telecommunications network by means of telecommunications processes, with the exception of broadcasting and television.

Article 2

Principles of awarding contracts

Contracting authorities shall treat economic operators equally and non-discriminatorily and shall act in a transparent way.

Article 2a (former Article 55)

Granting of special or exclusive rights: non-discrimination clause

Where a contracting authority grants special or exclusive rights to carry out a public service activity to an entity other than such a contracting authority, the act by which that right is granted shall provide that, in respect of the supply contracts which it awards to third parties as part of its activities, the entity concerned must comply with the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of nationality.¹⁹

TITLE II

Rules on public contracts

CHAPTER I

General provisions

Article 3

Economic operators

1. Candidates or tenderers who, under the law of the Member State in which they are established, are entitled to provide the relevant service, shall not be rejected solely on the grounds that, under the law of the Member State in which the contract is awarded, they would have been required to be either natural or legal persons.

However, in the case of public service and public works contracts as well as for public supply contracts covering in addition services and/or siting and installation operations, legal persons may be required to indicate in the tender or the request for participation the names and relevant professional qualifications of the staff to be responsible for the performance of the service.

¹⁹ Reservation by the Commission. The Commission noted that the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of nationality was interpreted by the Court in the Unitron judgment as also covering equality of treatment and transparency.

2. Groups of economic operators may submit tenders or put themselves forward as candidates. In order to submit a tender or a request to participate, these groups may not be required by the contracting authorities to assume a specific legal form; however, the group selected may be required to do so when it has been awarded the contract, to the extent that this change is necessary for the satisfactory performance of the contract.

Article 4

Conditions relating to the agreements concluded within the World Trade Organisation

For the purposes of the award of contracts by contracting authorities, Member States shall apply in their relations conditions as favourable as those which they grant to economic operators of third countries in implementation of the Agreement on Government Procurement (hereinafter: "the Agreement"), concluded in the framework of the Uruguay Round multilateral negotiations. Member States shall, to this end, consult one another within the Advisory Committee for Public Contracts on the measures to be taken pursuant to the Agreement.

Article 5

Confidentiality

This Directive shall not limit the right of economic operators to require a contracting authority, in accordance with the national law to which it is subject, to respect the confidential nature of information which they make available; such information may include, in particular, technical or trade secrets and the confidential aspects of tenders.²⁰

CHAPTER II

Scope

Section 1

Thresholds

Article 8

Threshold amounts for public contracts

This Directive shall apply to public contracts which are not excluded in accordance with the exception provided for in Article 7 and Articles 14 to 19 and which have a value exclusive of value-added tax (VAT) estimated to be equal or more than the following thresholds:

²⁰ Scrutiny reservation by the EL delegation.

- (a) EUR 162 000 for public supply and service contracts others than those covered by point (b), third indent, awarded by contracting authorities which are listed as central government authorities in Annex IV; in the case of public supply contracts awarded by contracting authorities operating in the field of defence, this shall apply only to contracts involving products covered by Annex V;
- (b) EUR 249 000
- for public supply and service contracts awarded by contracting authorities other than those listed in Annex IV;
 - for public supply contracts awarded by contracting authorities which are listed in Annex IV and operate in the field of defence, where these contracts involve products not covered by Annex V;
 - for public service contracts awarded by any contracting authority in respect of the services listed in Category 8 of Annex IIA, Category 5 telecommunications services the positions of which in the CPV are equivalent to CPC reference Nos 7524, 7525 and 7526 and/or the services listed in Annex IIB.
- (c) EUR 6 242 000 for public works contracts.

Article 9

Contracts subsidised by more than 50% by contracting authorities

The provisions of this Directive apply to the awarding of:

- (a) contracts more than 50% of which are subsidised directly by contracting authorities and the estimated value of which net of VAT is equal to or greater than EUR 6 242 000,
- where those contracts involve civil engineering activities;
 - where those contracts involve building work for hospitals, facilities intended for sports, recreation and leisure, school and university buildings and buildings used for administrative purposes;
- (b) service contracts more than 50% of which are subsidised directly by contracting authorities, and the estimated value of which net of VAT is equal or greater than EUR 249 000 and which are connected with a works contract within the meaning of (a).

Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the contracting authorities awarding such subsidies ensure compliance with this Directive where that contract is awarded by one or more entities other than themselves or comply with this Directive where they themselves award that contract for and on behalf of those entities.

Article 10

Methods for calculating the estimated value of public contracts, framework agreements and dynamic systems

1. The calculation of the estimated value of a public contract shall be based on the total amount net of VAT payable as estimated by the contracting authority. This calculation shall take account of the estimated total amount, including any form of option and any renewals of the contract.

Where the contracting authority provides for prizes or payments to candidates or tenderers it shall take them into account when calculating the estimated value of the contract.

2. This estimate must be valid at the moment at which the contract notice is sent, as provided for in Article 34(2), or, in cases where such notice is not required, at the moment at which the contracting authority commences the contract awarding procedure.
3. No works project or proposed purchase of a certain quantity of supplies and/or services may be subdivided to prevent its coming within the scope of this Directive.
6. With regard to public works contracts, calculation of the estimated value must take account of both the cost of the works and the total estimated value of the supplies necessary for executing the works and placed at the contractor's disposal by the contracting authorities.
7. (a) Where a proposed work or purchase of services may result in contracts being awarded at the same time in the form of separate lots, account must be taken of the total estimated value of all such lots.

Where the aggregate value of the lots is equal to or exceeds the threshold laid down in Article 8, the Directive shall apply to the awarding of each lot.

However, the contracting authorities may waive such application in respect of lots the estimated value of which net of VAT is less than EUR 80 000 for services or EUR 1 million for works, provided that the aggregate cost of those lots does not exceed 20% of the aggregate value of the lots as a whole.

- (b) Where a proposal for the acquisition of similar supplies may result in contracts being awarded at the same time in the form of separate lots, account must be taken of the total estimated value of all such lots when applying Article 8(a) and (b).

Where the aggregate value of the lots is equal to or exceeds the threshold laid down in Article 8, the Directive shall apply to the awarding of each lot.

However, the contracting authorities may waive such application in respect of lots, the estimated value of which net of VAT is less than EUR 80 000, provided that the aggregate cost of those lots does not exceed 20% of the aggregate value of the lots as a whole.

- 4. With regard to public supply contracts relating to the leasing, hire, rental or hire purchase²¹ of products, the value to be taken as a basis for calculating the estimated contract value shall be as follows:
 - (a) in the case of fixed-term public contracts, if that term is less than or equal to twelve months, the total estimated value for the term of the contract or, if the term of the contract is greater than twelve months, the total value including the estimated residual value;
 - (b) in the case of public contracts without a fixed term or the term of which cannot be defined, the monthly value multiplied by 48.

- 8. In the case of public supply or service contracts which are regular in nature or which are intended to be renewed within a given period, the calculation of the estimated contract value shall be based on the following:
 - (a) either the total actual value of the successive contracts of the same type awarded during the preceding twelve months or financial year, if possible adjusted to take account of the changes in quantity or value which would occur in the course of the twelve months following the initial contract;
 - (b) or the total estimated value of the successive contracts awarded during the twelve months following the first delivery, or during the financial year if that is longer than twelve months.

The choice of method used to calculate the estimated value of a public contract may not be made with the intention of excluding it from the scope of this Directive.

²¹ In the German language version, "Pacht" needs to be added.

5. With regard to public service contracts, the value to be taken as a basis for calculating the estimated contract value shall be as follows:
 - (a) for the following types of services:
 - (i) insurance services: the premium payable and other forms of remuneration;
 - (ii) banking and other financial services: the fees, commissions, interest and other forms of remuneration;
 - (iii) design contracts: fees, commission payable and other forms of remuneration;
 - (b) for service contracts which do not indicate a total price:
 - (i) in the case of fixed-term contracts, if that term is less than or equal to forty-eight months: the total value for their full term;
 - (ii) in the case of contracts without a fixed term or with a term greater than forty-eight months: the monthly value multiplied by 48.

9. With regard to framework agreements and dynamic purchasing systems, the value to be taken into consideration shall be the maximum estimated value net of VAT of all the contracts envisaged for the total term of the agreement or system.

Section 2

Defence procurement

Article 7

This Directive shall apply to public contracts awarded by contracting authorities in the field of defence, subject to the provisions of Article 296 of the Treaty.

Article 7a

Public contracts and framework agreements awarded by central purchasing bodies

1. Member States may stipulate that contracting authorities may purchase works, supplies and/or services from or through a central purchasing body.

2. Contracting authorities which purchase works, supplies and/or services from or through a central purchasing body in the cases set out in Article 1(7a) shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of this Directive insofar as the central purchasing body has complied with them.

Section 3

Excluded contracts

Article 14

Contracts in the water, energy and transport sectors and postal services

This Directive shall not apply to public contracts which under Directive .../EC of the European Parliament and of the Council coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy [...] sectors²², are awarded by contracting authorities exercising one or more of the activities referred to in Articles 3 to 6 of that Directive and are awarded for the pursuit of such activities, or to public contracts excluded from the scope of that Directive under Article 5(2) and Articles 20, 27 and 29 thereof.

However, this Directive shall continue to apply to public contracts awarded by contracting authorities carrying out one or more of the activities referred to in Article 5a of that Directive and awarded for those activities, insofar as the Member State concerned takes advantage of the option referred to in the second paragraph of Article 68 thereof to defer its application²³.

Article 15

Specific exclusions in the field of telecommunications

This Directive shall not apply to public contracts for the principal purpose of permitting the contracting authorities to provide or exploit public telecommunications networks or to provide to the public one or more telecommunications services.

²² OJ... (Full title to be added).

²³ This paragraph has been inserted subject to agreement in principle on the treatment of postal services in the "special sectors" Directive. Scrutiny reservations by the A/B/D/L/FIN/I/P and S delegations. Reservation by the F delegation.

Article 16

Secret contracts and contracts requiring special security measures

This Directive shall not apply to public contracts when they are declared to be secret, when their execution must be accompanied by special security measures in accordance with the laws, regulations or administrative provisions in force in the Member State concerned, or when the protection of the essential interests of that State so requires.

Article 17

Contracts awarded pursuant to international rules

This Directive shall not apply to public contracts governed by different procedural rules and awarded:

- (a) pursuant to an international agreement concluded in conformity with the Treaty between a Member State and one or more third countries and covering supplies or works intended for the joint implementation or exploitation of a work by the signatory States or services intended for the joint implementation or exploitation of a project by the signatory States; all agreements shall be communicated to the Commission, which may consult the Advisory Committee for Public Contracts;
- (b) to undertakings in a Member State or a third country pursuant to an international agreement relating to the stationing of troops;
- (c) pursuant to the particular procedure of an international organisation.

Article 18

Specific exclusions

This Directive shall not apply to public service contracts for:

- (a) the acquisition or rental, by whatever means, of land, existing buildings or other immovable property or concerning rights thereon; nevertheless, financial service contracts concluded at the same time as, before or after the contract of acquisition or rental, in whatever form, shall be subject to this Directive;
- (b) the acquisition, development, production or co-production of programme material ²⁴ by broadcasters and contracts for broadcasting time;

²⁴ (Translation instruction for EN text incorporated.).

- (c) arbitration and conciliation services;
- (d) financial services in connection with the issue, sale, purchase or transfer of securities or other financial instruments, in particular transactions by the contracting authorities to raise money or capital, and central bank services²⁵;
- (e) employment contracts;
- (f) research and development services other than those where the benefits accrue exclusively to the contracting authority for its use in the conduct of its own affairs, on condition that the service provided is wholly remunerated by the contracting authority.

Article 18a

Service concessions

Without prejudice to the application of Article 2a, this Directive shall not apply to service concessions as defined in Article 1(3a).²⁶

Article 19

Service contracts awarded on the basis of an exclusive right

This Directive shall not apply to public service contracts awarded by a contracting authority to another contracting authority or to an association of contracting authorities on the basis of an exclusive right which they enjoy pursuant to a published law, regulation or administrative provision which is compatible with the Treaty.

Section 4

Special arrangement

Article 19a

Reserved contracts

Member States may reserve the right to participate in public contract award procedures to sheltered workshops or provide for such contracts to be executed in the context of sheltered employment programmes where most of the employees concerned are handicapped persons who, by reason of the nature or the seriousness of their disabilities, cannot carry on occupations under normal conditions.

The contract notice shall make reference to this provision.

²⁵ Reservations by the B delegation and the Commission. (Comment by NL delegation refers to Dutch text only).

²⁶ Reservation by the F delegation.

CHAPTER III

Arrangements for public service contracts

Article 20

Service contracts listed in Annex IIA

Contracts which have as their object services listed in Annex IIA shall be awarded in accordance with Articles 22 to 54.

Article 21

Service contracts listed in Annex IIB

Contracts which have as their object services listed in Annex IIB shall be subject solely to Article 24 and Article 34(3).

Article 22

Mixed contracts including services listed in Annex IIA and services listed in Annex IIB

Contracts which have as their object services listed both in Annex IIA and in Annex IIB shall be awarded in accordance with the provisions of Articles 22 to 54 where the value of the services listed in Annex IIA is greater than the value of the services listed in Annex IIB. In other cases, contracts shall be awarded in accordance with Article 24 and Article 34(3).

CHAPTER IV

Specific rules governing specifications and contract documents

Article 24

Technical specifications

1. The technical specifications as defined in point 1 of Annex VI shall be set out in the contract documentation, such as contract notices, contract documents or additional documents.
2. Technical specifications shall afford equal access for tenderers and not have the effect of creating unjustified obstacles to the opening of public procurement to competition.

3. Without prejudice to legally binding national technical rules, to the extent that they are compatible with Community law, the technical specifications shall be formulated:
- (a) either with reference to specifications defined in Annex VI in order of preference over national standards transposing European standards, European technical approvals, common technical specifications, international standards, other technical reference systems established by the European standardisation bodies or – when these do not exist – national standards, national technical approvals or national technical specifications relating to the design, calculation and execution of the works and implementation of the products. Each reference shall be accompanied by the words "or equivalent";
 - (b) or in terms of performance or functional requirements; the latter may include environmental characteristics. However, such parameters must be sufficiently precise to allow tenderers to determine the subject-matter of the contract and to allow contracting authorities to award the contract;
 - (c) or in terms of performance or functional requirements as defined in (b), with reference to the specifications mentioned in (a) as a means of presuming conformity with such requirements or performance;
 - (d) or by referring to the specifications mentioned in (a) for certain characteristics, and by referring to the functional performance or requirements mentioned in (b) for other characteristics.
4. Where a contracting authority makes use of the option of referring to the specifications mentioned in paragraph 3(a), it cannot reject a tender on the grounds that the products and services tendered for do not comply with the specifications to which it has referred, once the tenderer proves in his tender to the satisfaction of the contracting authority, by whatever appropriate means, that the solutions which he proposes satisfy in an equivalent manner the requirements defined by the technical specifications.

An appropriate means might be constituted by a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.

5. Where a contracting authority uses the option laid down in paragraph 3 to prescribe in terms of performance or functional requirements, it may not reject a tender for products, services or works which comply with a national standard transposing a European standard, with a European technical approval, a common technical specification, an international standard, a technical reference system established by a European standardisation body, if these specifications address the performance or functional requirements which it has laid down.

In his tender the tenderer must prove to the satisfaction of the contracting authority and by any appropriate means that the product, service or work in compliance with the standard meets the functional or performance requirements of the contracting authority.

An appropriate means might be constituted by a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.

- 5a. Where contracting authorities lay down environmental characteristics in terms of performance or functional requirements as referred to in paragraph 3(b) they may use detailed specifications, or, if necessary, parts thereof, as defined by European or (multi-) national eco-labels, or by and any other eco-label, providing that :
- those specifications are appropriate to define the characteristics of the supplies or services that are the object of the contract,
 - the requirements for the label are drawn up on the basis of scientific information,
 - the eco-labels are adopted using a procedure in which all stakeholders, such as government bodies, consumers, manufacturers, and retail and environmental organisations can participate, and
 - they are accessible to all interested parties.

The contracting authorities may indicate that the products and services bearing the eco-label are presumed to comply with the technical specifications laid down in the contract documents; they must accept any other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.

6. "Recognised bodies" within the meaning of this Article are test and calibration laboratories and certification and inspection bodies which comply with applicable European standards.

Contracting authorities shall accept certificates from recognised bodies established in other Member States.

7. Unless justified by the subject-matter of the contract, technical specifications shall not refer to a specific make or source, or a particular process, or to trade marks, patents, types or a specific origin or production with the effect of favouring or eliminating certain undertakings or certain products. Such reference shall be permitted on an exceptional basis, where a sufficiently precise and intelligible description of the subject-matter of the contract pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 is not possible; such reference shall be accompanied by the words "or equivalent".

Article 25

Variants

1. Where the criterion for award is that of the most economically advantageous tender, contracting authorities may authorise tenderers to submit variants.
2. The contracting authorities shall indicate in the contract notice whether or not they authorise variants: variants shall not be authorised without this indication.²⁷
3. The contracting authorities authorising variants shall state in the contract documents the minimum specifications to be respected by the variants and any specific requirements for their presentation.
4. Only variants meeting the minimum requirements laid down by these contracting authorities shall be taken into consideration.

In the procedures for awarding public supply or service contracts, contracting authorities which have authorised variants may not reject a variant on the sole ground that it would lead, if successful, to either a service contract rather than a public supply contract or a supply contract rather than a public service contract.

Article 26

Subcontracting

In the contract documents, the contracting authority may ask or may be required by a Member State to ask the tenderer to indicate in his tender any share of the contract he may intend to subcontract to third parties and any proposed subcontractors.

This indication shall be without prejudice to the question of the principal economic operator's liability.

Article 26a

Conditions for performance of contracts

Contracting authorities may lay down special conditions relating to the performance of a contract, provided that these are compatible with Community law and are indicated in the contract notice or in the specifications. The conditions governing the performance of a contract may concern social and environmental considerations.

²⁷ Reservation by the F delegation.

Article 27

Obligations relating to taxes, environmental protection, employment protection provisions and working conditions

1. The contracting authority may state in the contract documents, or be obliged by a Member State to do so, the body or bodies from which a candidate or tenderer may obtain the appropriate information on the obligations relating to taxes, environmental protection, the employment protection provisions and the working conditions which are in force in the Member State, region or locality in which the services are to be provided and which shall be applicable to those services during the performance of the contract.
2. The contracting authority which supplies the information referred to in paragraph 1 shall request the tenderers or candidates in the contract award procedure to indicate that they have taken account, when drawing up their tender, of the obligations relating to employment protection provisions and the working conditions which are in force in the place where the service is to be provided.

The first subparagraph shall be without prejudice to the application of the provisions of Article 54 concerning the examination of abnormally low tenders.

CHAPTER V

Procedures

Article 28

Use of open, restricted and negotiated procedures and of competitive dialogue

In awarding their public contracts, the contracting authorities shall apply the national procedures adjusted for the purposes of this Directive.

They shall award these public contracts by applying the open or restricted procedure. In the specific circumstances expressly provided for in Article 30, the contracting authorities may award their public contracts by means of the competitive dialogue. In the specific cases and circumstances referred to expressly in Articles 29 and 31, they may apply a negotiated procedure, with or without publication of the contract notice.

Article 30²⁸

Competitive dialogue

1. Where contracting authorities consider that use of open and restricted procedures will not allow award of the contract, Member States may provide for those authorities to make use of the competitive dialogue in accordance with the arrangements laid down in this Article:
 - (a) where they are not objectively able to define the technical means in accordance with Article 24(3) (b), (c) or (d), capable of satisfying their needs or objectives, and/or
 - (b) where they are not objectively able to specify the legal and/or financial make-up of a project.

A public contract shall be awarded on the sole basis of the award criterion for the most economically advantageous tender.

2. The contracting authorities shall publish a contract notice setting out their needs and requirements, which they shall define in that notice and/or in a descriptive document.
3. The contracting authorities shall open, with the candidates selected in accordance with Articles 43a to 52, a dialogue the aim of which shall be to identify and define the means best likely to satisfy their needs. They may discuss all aspects of the contract with the chosen candidates during this dialogue.

During the dialogue, the contracting authorities shall ensure equality of treatment among all tenderers. In particular, they shall not discriminate by providing information which may give some tenderers an advantage over others.

The contracting authorities may not reveal to the other participants solutions proposed or other confidential information communicated by a participant in the dialogue without his/her agreement.

4. The contracting authorities may provide for the procedure to take place in successive stages in order to reduce the number of solutions to be discussed during the dialogue stage by applying the award criteria in the contract notice or the contract document. The contract notice or the descriptive document shall indicate that recourse may be had to this option.

²⁸ Parliamentary reservation by the D delegation pending the overall outcome of the political agreement on the legislative package. Scrutiny reservations by the A and D delegations.

5. The contracting authority shall continue such dialogue until it can identify solutions, if necessary after comparing them, which are capable of meeting its needs.
6. Having declared that the dialogue is concluded and having so informed the participants, contracting authorities shall ask them to submit their final tenders on the basis of the solution(s) presented and specified during the dialogue. These tenders shall contain all the elements required and necessary for performance of the project.

These tenders may be clarified and specified at the request of the contracting authority. However, such clarification, specification or additional information may not involve changes to the basic features of the tender or the call for tender, variations in which are likely to distort competition or have a discriminatory effect.

7. Contracting authorities shall assess the tenders received on the basis of the award criteria laid down in the contract notice and shall choose the most economically advantageous tender in accordance with Article 53.

At the request of the contracting authority, the tenderer identified as the most economically advantageous may be asked to clarify aspects of the tender or confirm commitments contained in the tender provided this does not have the effect of modifying substantial aspects of the tender or of the call for competition and does not risk distorting competition or causing discrimination.

8. The contracting authorities may specify prices or payments to the participants in the dialogue.

Article 29

Cases justifying use of the negotiated procedure with publication of a contract notice

1. Contracting authorities may award their public contracts by negotiated procedure, after publication of a contract notice, in the following cases:
 - (a) in the event of irregular tenders or the submission of tenders which are unacceptable under national provisions compatible with Articles 3, 25, 26, 27 and Chapter VII, in response to an open or restricted procedure or a competitive dialogue insofar as the original terms of the contract are not substantially altered.

Contracting authorities need not publish a contract notice where they include in the negotiated procedure all the tenderers and only those tenderers who satisfy the criteria of Articles 46 to 52 and which, during the prior open or restricted procedure or competitive dialogue, have submitted tenders in accordance with the formal requirements of the tendering procedure;

- (b) in exceptional cases, when the nature of the supplies, services or works or the risks attaching thereto do not permit prior overall pricing;
 - (c) in the case of services, *inter alia* services within category 6 of Annex IIA, and intellectual services such as services involving the design of works, insofar as the nature of the services to be procured is such that contract specifications cannot be established with sufficient precision to permit the award of the contract by selection of the best tender according to the rules governing open or restricted procedures;
 - (d) in respect of public works contracts, for works which are performed solely for purposes of research, testing or development and not with the aim of ensuring profitability or recovering research and development costs.
2. In the cases referred to in paragraph 1, contracting authorities shall negotiate with tenderers the tenders submitted by them in order to adapt them to the requirements which they have set in the contract notice, the specifications and additional documents, if any, and to seek out the most advantageous tender.
 3. During the negotiations, contracting authorities shall ensure equality of treatment among all tenderers. In particular, they shall not discriminate by providing information which may give some tenderers an advantage over others.
 4. Contracting authorities may provide for the negotiated procedure to take place in successive stages in order to reduce the number of tenders to be negotiated by applying the award criteria in the contract notice or the specifications. The contract notice or the specifications shall indicate whether recourse has been had to this option.

Article 31

Cases justifying use of the negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice

Contracting authorities may award public contracts by a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice in the following cases:

- (1) for public supply contracts, public service contracts and public works contracts:
 - (a) when no tenders or no suitable tenders or no applications have been submitted in response to an open procedure or a restricted procedure, provided that the initial conditions of contract are not substantially altered and on condition that a report is sent to the Commission if it so requests;
 - (b) when, for technical or artistic reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights, the contract may be awarded only to a particular economic operator;

- (c) insofar as is strictly necessary when, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the contracting authorities in question, the time-limit for the open, restricted or negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice as referred to in Article 29 cannot be complied with. The circumstances invoked to justify extreme urgency must not in any event be attributable to the contracting authority;
- (2) for public supply contracts:
 - (a) when the products involved are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development; this provision does not extend to quantity production to establish commercial viability or to recover research and development costs;
 - (b) for additional deliveries by the original supplier which are intended either as a partial replacement of normal supplies or installations or as the extension of existing supplies or installations where a change of supplier would oblige the contracting authority to acquire material having different technical characteristics which would result in incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation and maintenance; the length of such contracts as well as that of recurrent contracts may not, as a general rule, exceed three years;
 - (c) for supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market;
 - (d) for the purchase of supplies on particularly advantageous terms, from either a supplier who is ceasing to trade on a permanent basis or receivers or liquidators involved in insolvency proceedings, amicable composition proceedings or proceedings of a similar nature which exist under national laws or regulations;
 - (3) for public service contracts, when the contract concerned follows a design contest and must, under the rules applying, be awarded to the successful candidate or to one of the successful candidates: in the latter case, all successful candidates must be invited to participate in the negotiations;
 - (4) for public service contracts and public works contracts:
 - (a) for additional services or works not included in the project initially considered or in the original contract but which have, through unforeseen circumstances, become necessary for the performance of the services or works described therein, on condition that the award is made to the economic operator performing such services or works:
 - when such additional services or works cannot be technically or economically separated from the original contract without major inconvenience to the contracting authorities,

or

- when such services or works, although separable from the performance of the original contract, are strictly necessary for its completion.

However, the aggregate value of contracts awarded for additional services or works may not exceed 50% of the amount of the original contract;

- (b) for new services or works consisting in the repetition of similar services or works entrusted to the economic operator to whom the same contracting authorities awarded an original contract, provided that such services or works conform to a basic project for which the original contract was awarded according to the open or restricted procedures.

As soon as the first project is put up for tender, the possible use of this procedure shall be disclosed and the total estimated cost of subsequent services or works shall be taken into consideration by the contracting authorities when they apply the provisions of Article 8.

This procedure may be used only during the three years following the conclusion of the original contract.

Article 32²⁹

Framework agreements

1. Member States may stipulate that contracting authorities may conclude framework agreements.³⁰
2. For the purpose of concluding a framework agreement, contracting authorities shall follow the rules of procedure referred to in this Directive for all phases up to the award of contracts based on that agreement. The parties to that agreement shall be chosen by applying the award criteria set in accordance with Article 53.

Contracts based on a framework agreement shall be awarded in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraphs 3 and 4. Those procedures may be applied only between the contracting authorities and the economic operators originally party to the framework agreement.

When awarding contracts based on a framework agreement, the parties may under no circumstances make substantive amendments to the terms laid down in the agreement, *inter alia* in the case referred to in paragraph 3.

²⁹ Parliamentary reservation by the D delegation on the whole of Article 32.

³⁰ Reservation by the D delegation on paragraph 1.

The term of a framework agreement may not exceed four years, save in exceptional cases duly justified, in particular by the subject of the framework agreement.

Contracting authorities may not use framework agreements improperly or in such a way as to hinder, restrict or distort competition.

3. Where a framework agreement is concluded with a single economic operator, contracts based on that agreement shall be awarded within the limits of the terms laid down in the agreement.

For the award of those contracts, contracting authorities may consult the operator party to the framework agreement in writing, requesting it to supplement its offer as necessary.

4. Where a framework agreement is concluded with several economic operators, the latter must be at least three in number, insofar as there is a sufficient number of economic operators to satisfy the selection criteria and/or of admissible offers which meet the award criteria.

Contracts based on framework agreements concluded with several economic operators may be awarded either:

- by application of the terms laid down in the agreement without reopening competition, or
- where not all the terms are laid down in the agreement, when the parties are again in competition on the basis of the same and, if necessary, more precisely formulated terms, and, where appropriate, other terms referred to in the specifications of the framework agreement, in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (a) for every contract to be awarded, contracting authorities shall consult in writing the economic operators capable of executing the subject of the contract;
 - (b) contracting authorities shall fix a time-limit which is sufficiently long to allow tenders for each specific contract to be submitted, taking into account factors such as the complexity of the subject of the contract and the time needed to send in tenders;
 - (c) tenders shall be submitted in writing, and their content shall remain confidential until the time-limit for reply has expired;
 - (d) contracting authorities shall award each contract to the tenderer who has submitted the best tender on the basis of the award criteria set out in the specifications of the framework agreement.

Article 32a

Dynamic purchasing systems

1. Member States may stipulate that contracting authorities may use dynamic purchasing systems.
2. In order to set up a dynamic purchasing system, contracting authorities shall follow the rules of the procedure opened in all its phases up to the award of the contracts to be concluded under this system. All the tenderers satisfying the selection criteria and having submitted an indicative tender which complies with the specification and any additional documents shall be admitted to the system; indicative tenders may be improved at any time provided that they continue to comply with the specification. With a view to setting up the system and to the award of contracts under that system, contracting authorities shall use solely electronic means in accordance with Article 42(2) to (5).
3. For the purposes of setting up the dynamic purchasing system, contracting authorities shall:
 - (a) publish a contract notice making it clear that a dynamic purchasing system is involved;
 - (b) indicate in the specification, inter alia, the nature of the purchases envisaged under that system, as well as all the necessary information concerning the purchasing system, the electronic equipment used and the technical connection arrangements and specifications;
 - (c) offer by electronic means, on publication of the notice and up to the expiry of the system, free, direct and full access to the specification and to any additional document and shall indicate in the notice the internet address at which such documents may be consulted.
4. Contracting authorities shall give any economic operator, throughout the entire period of the dynamic purchasing system, the possibility of submitting an indicative tender and of being admitted to the system under the conditions referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 2. They shall complete evaluation within a maximum of 15 days from the date of submission of the indicative tender. However, they may extend evaluation provided that no invitation to tender is issued in the meantime.

The contracting authority shall inform the tenderer referred to in the first subparagraph at the earliest possible opportunity of its admittance to the dynamic purchasing system or of the rejection of its indicative tender.

Each specific contract must be the subject of an invitation to tender. Before issuing the invitation to tender, contracting authorities shall publish a simplified contract notice inviting all interested economic operators to submit an indicative tender, in accordance with paragraph 4, within a time-limit that may not be less than 15 days from the date on which the simplified notice was sent. Contracting authorities may not proceed with tendering until they have completed evaluation of all the indicative tenders received by that deadline.

6. Contracting authorities shall invite all tenderers admitted to the system to submit a tender for each specific contract to be awarded under the system. To that end they shall set a time-limit for the submission of tenders.

They shall award the contract to the tenderer which submitted the best tender on the basis of the award criteria set out in the contract notice setting up the dynamic purchasing system. Those criteria may, if appropriate, be formulated more precisely in the invitation referred to in the previous subparagraph.

7. A dynamic purchasing system may not last for more than four years, except in duly justified exceptional cases.

Contracting authorities may not resort to this system to prevent, restrict or distort competition.

No charges may be billed to the interested economic operators or to parties to the system.

Article 33

Public works contracts: particular rules on subsidised housing schemes

In the case of public contracts relating to the design and construction of a subsidised housing scheme the size and complexity of which, and the estimated duration of the work involved require that planning be based from the outset on close collaboration within a team comprising representatives of the contracting authorities, experts and the contractor to be responsible for carrying out the works, a special award procedure may be adopted for selecting the contractor most suitable for integration into the team.

In particular, contracting authorities shall include in the contract notice as accurate as possible a description of the works to be carried out so as to enable interested contractors to form a valid idea of the project. Furthermore, contracting authorities shall, in accordance with the qualitative selection criteria referred to in Articles 46 to 52, set out in such a contract notice the personal, technical, economic and financial conditions to be fulfilled by candidates.

Where such a procedure is adopted, contracting authorities shall apply Articles 2, 34, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43 and 46 to 52.

CHAPTER VI

Rules on advertising and transparency

Section 1

Publication of notices

Article 34

Notices

1. Contracting authorities shall make known, by means of a prior information notice published by the Commission or by themselves on their "buyer profile", as described in Annex VIII, paragraph 2(b):
 - (a) where supplies are concerned, the estimated total value of the contracts or the framework agreements by product area which they intend to award over the following twelve months, where the total estimated value, taking into account the provisions of Articles 8 and 10, is equal to or greater than EUR 750 000.

The product area shall be established by the contracting authorities by reference to the CPV nomenclature;

- (b) where services are concerned, the estimated total value of the contracts or the framework agreements in each of the categories of services listed in Annex IIA which they intend to award over the following twelve months, where such estimated total value, taking into account the provisions of Articles 8 and 10, is equal to or greater than EUR 750 000;
- (c) where works are concerned, the essential characteristics of the contracts or the framework agreements which they intend to award, the estimated value of which is equal to or greater than the threshold specified in Article 8, taking into account the provisions of Article 10.

The notices referred to in (a) and (b) shall be sent to the Commission or published on the buyer profile as soon as possible after the beginning of the budgetary year.

The notice referred to in (c) shall be sent to the Commission or published on the buyer profile as soon as possible after the decision approving the planning of the works contracts or the framework agreements that the contracting authorities intend to award.

Contracting authorities who publish the prior information notice on their buyer profiles shall send the Commission, electronically, a notice of the publication of the prior information notice on a buyer profile, in accordance with the format and modalities for sending notices indicated in Annex VIII, paragraph 8.

The publication of the notices referred to in (a), (b) and (c) shall be compulsory only where the contracting authorities take the option of shortening the time-limits for the receipt of tenders as laid down in Article 37(4).³¹

This paragraph shall not apply to procedures negotiated without the prior publication of a contract notice.

2. Contracting authorities which wish to award a public contract or a framework agreement by open, restricted or, under the conditions laid down in Article 29, negotiated procedure with the publication of a contract notice or, under the conditions laid down in Article 30, a competitive dialogue, shall make known their intention by means of a contract notice.
- 2a. Contracting authorities which wish to set up a dynamic purchasing system shall make known their intention by means of a contract notice.

Contracting authorities which wish to award a contract based on a dynamic purchasing system shall make known their intention by means of a simplified contract notice.

3. Contracting authorities which have awarded a public contract or concluded a framework agreement shall send a notice of the results of the award procedure no later than 48 days after the award of the contract or framework agreement.

In the case of framework agreements concluded in accordance with Article 32 the contracting authorities are not bound to send a notice of the results of the award procedure for each contract based on that agreement.

Contracting authorities shall send a notice of the result of the award of contracts based on a dynamic purchasing system within 48 days of the award of each contract. They may, however, group such notices on a quarterly basis. In that case, they shall send the grouped notices within 48 days of the end of each quarter.

In the case of public contracts for services listed in Annex IIB, the contracting authorities shall indicate in the notice whether they agree to its publication. For such services contracts the Commission shall draw up the rules for establishing statistical reports on the basis of such notices and for the publication of such reports in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 76(2).

Certain information on the contract award or the contract award under a framework agreement may be withheld from publication where release of such information would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, would harm the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators, public or private, or might prejudice fair competition between them.

³¹ The UK delegation was not in favour of this addition and preferred publication of these notices to be compulsory.

Article 35

Form and manner of publication of notices

1. The notices shall include the information mentioned in Annex VIIA and, where appropriate, any other information deemed useful by the contracting authority in the format of standard forms adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 76(2).
2. Notices sent by contracting authorities to the Commission shall be sent either by electronic means in accordance with the format and modalities of transmission indicated in Annex VIII, paragraph 3, or by other means. In the event of recourse to the accelerated procedure set out in Article 37(8), notices must be sent either by telefax or by electronic means, in accordance with the format and modalities of transmission indicated in Annex VIII, paragraph 3.

The notices shall be published in accordance with the technical characteristics for publication set out in Annex VIII, paragraph 1(a) and (b).

3. Notices drawn up and transmitted by electronic means in accordance with the format and modalities of transmission indicated in Annex VIII, paragraph 3, shall be published not later than five days after they are sent.

Notices which are not transmitted by electronic means in accordance with the format and modalities of transmission indicated in Annex VIII, paragraph 3, shall be published not later than twelve days after they are sent, or in the case of accelerated procedure referred to in Article 37(8), not later than five days after they are sent.

4. Contract notices shall be published in full in an official language of the Community as chosen by the contracting authority, this original language version constituting the sole authentic text. A summary of the important elements of each notice shall be published in the other official languages.

The costs of publication of such notices by the Commission shall be borne by the Community.

5. The notices and their contents may not be published at national level before the date on which they are sent to the Commission.

Notices published at national level shall not contain information other than that contained in the notices dispatched to the Commission or published on a buyer profile in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 34(1), but shall mention the date of dispatch of the notice to the Commission or its publication on the buyer profile.

Prior information notices may not be published on a buyer profile before the dispatch to the Commission of the notice of their publication in that form; they shall mention the date of that dispatch.

6. The content of notices not sent by electronic means in accordance with the format and modalities of transmission indicated in Annex VIII, paragraph 3, shall be limited to approximately 650 words.
7. The contracting authorities shall be able to supply proof of the dates on which notices are dispatched.
8. The Commission shall give the contracting authority confirmation of the publication of the information sent, mentioning the date of that publication. Such confirmation shall constitute proof of publication.

Article 36

Non-mandatory publication

Contracting authorities may publish in accordance with Article 35 notices of public contracts which are not subject to the publication requirement laid down in this Directive.

Section 2

Time-limits

Article 37

Time-limits for receipt of requests to participate and for receipt of tenders

1. When fixing the time-limits for the receipt of tenders and requests to participate, contracting authorities shall take account in particular of the complexity of the contract and the time required for drawing up tenders, without prejudice to the minimum time-limits set by this Article.
2. In the case of open procedures, the minimum time-limit for the receipt of tenders shall be 52 days from the date on which the contract notice was sent.
3. In the case of restricted procedures, negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice referred to in Article 29 and the competitive dialogue
 - (a) the minimum time-limit for receipt of requests to participate shall be 37 days from the date on which the contract notice was sent;
 - (b) In the case of restricted procedures, the minimum time-limit for the receipt of tenders shall be 40 days from the date on which the invitation was sent.

4. When contracting authorities have published a prior information notice, the minimum time-limit for the receipt of tenders under paragraphs 2 and 3(b) may, as a general rule, be shortened to 36 days, but under no circumstances to less than 22 days.

The period shall run from the date on which the contract notice was sent in open procedures, and from the date on which the invitation to submit a tender was sent in restricted procedures.

The shortened time-limits referred to in the first subparagraph shall be permitted, provided that the prior information notice has included all the information required in the model contract notice in Annex VII A, insofar as that information is available at the time the notice is published and was sent for publication between no less than 52 days and no more than twelve months before the date on which the contract notice was sent.

5. Where notices are drawn up and transmitted by electronic means in accordance with the format and modalities of transmission indicated in Annex VIII, paragraph 3, the time-limits for the receipt of tenders referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 in open procedures, and the time-limit for the receipt of the requests to participate referred to in paragraph 3(a), in restricted and negotiated procedures and the competitive dialogue, may be shortened by seven days.
6. The time-limits for receipt of tenders set out in paragraphs 2 and 3(b) above may be reduced by five days where the contracting authority offers free and full direct access by electronic means to the contract documents and any supporting documents from the date of publication of the notice in accordance with Annex VIII, specifying in the text of the notice the internet address at which this documentation is accessible.

This reduction may be grouped with the reduction referred to in paragraph 5.

7. If, for whatever reason, the specifications and the supporting documents or additional information, although requested in good time, have not been supplied within the time-limits set in Article 38, or where tenders can be made only after a visit to the site or after on-the-spot inspection of the documents supporting the contract documents, the time-limits for the receipt of tenders shall be extended so that all economic operators concerned may be aware of all the information needed to produce a tender.
8. In the case of restricted procedures and negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice referred to in Article 29, where urgency renders impracticable the time-limits laid down in the present Article, contracting authorities may fix:
 - (a) a time-limit for the receipt of requests to participate which may not be less than 15 days from the date on which the contract notice was sent, or less than 10 days if the notice was sent by electronic means, in accordance with the format and procedure for sending notices indicated in Annex VIII, paragraph 3;

- (b) and, in the case of restricted procedures, a time-limit for the receipt of tenders which shall be not less than 10 days from the date of the invitation to tender.

Section 3

Information content and means of transmission

Article 38

Open procedures: Specifications, additional documents and information

1. In open procedures, where contracting authorities do not offer free and full direct access by electronic means in accordance with Article 37(6) to the specifications and any supporting documents, the specifications and supporting documents shall be sent to economic operators within six days of receipt of the request to participate, provided that the request was made in good time before the deadline for submission of tenders.
2. Provided that it has been requested in good time, additional information relating to the specifications and any supporting documents shall be supplied by the contracting authorities or competent departments not later than six days before the final date fixed for receipt of tenders.

Article 40

Invitations to submit a tender, participate in the dialogue or negotiate

1. In restricted procedures, competitive dialogues and negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice within the meaning of Article 29, the contracting authorities shall simultaneously and in writing invite the selected candidates to submit their tenders or to negotiate or, in the case of a competitive dialogue, to take part in the dialogue.
2. The invitation to the candidates shall include either:
 - a copy of the specifications or of the descriptive document and any supporting documents, or
 - a reference to accessing the specifications and the (other) documents indicated in the first indent, when they are made directly available by electronic means in accordance with Article 37(6).

3. Where an entity other than the contracting authority responsible for the award procedure has the specifications, the descriptive document and/or any supporting documents, the invitation shall state the address from which those specifications, that descriptive document and those documents may be requested and, if appropriate, the closing date for requesting such documents, and the sum payable for obtaining them and any payment procedures. The competent department shall send that documentation to the economic operator without delay once the request has been received.
4. The additional information on the specifications, the descriptive document or the supporting documents shall be sent by the contracting authority or the competent department not less than six days before the date limit fixed for the receipt of tenders, provided that they were requested in good time. In the event of a restricted or an accelerated procedure, that period shall be four days.
5. In addition, the invitation to submit a tender, to participate in the dialogue or to negotiate must contain at least:
 - (a) a reference to the contract notice published;
 - (b) the final date for the receipt of the tenders, the address to which the tenders must be sent and the language or languages in which the tenders must be drawn up;
 - (c) in the competitive dialogue the date and the address set for the start of consultation and the language or languages used;
 - (d) a reference to any documents to be submitted, either in support of verifiable declarations by the tenderer in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 43a(2)(a), or to supplement the information referred to in that Article, and under the conditions laid down in Articles 48 and 49;
 - (e) the relative weighting of criteria for the award of the contract or, where appropriate, the order of importance for the application of such criteria, if they are not given in the contract notice, the specifications or the descriptive document.

However, in the case of contracts awarded in accordance with the rules laid down in Article 30, the information referred to in (b) shall not appear in the invitation to participate in the dialogue but it shall appear in the invitation to submit a tender.

Article 41

Informing candidates and tenderers

1. The contracting authorities shall as soon as possible inform candidates and tenderers of decisions reached concerning the conclusion of a framework agreement, the award of the contract or admittance to a dynamic purchasing system, including the grounds for any decision not to conclude a framework agreement or award a contract for which there has been a call for competition or to recommence the procedure or implement a dynamic purchasing system; that information shall be given in writing upon request to the contracting authorities.
2. The contracting authority shall as quickly as possible inform any eliminated candidate or tenderer so requesting of the reasons for the rejection of his application or his tender, and any tenderer who has made an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the tender selected as well as the name of the successful tenderer or the parties to the framework agreement. Those time-limits may in no circumstances exceed fifteen days from the receipt of the written enquiry.
3. However, contracting authorities may decide to withhold certain information referred to in the first subparagraph, regarding the contract award, the conclusion of framework agreements or admittance to a dynamic system where release of such information would impede law enforcement, would otherwise be contrary to the public interest, would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators, public or private, or might prejudice fair competition between them.

Section 4

Communication

Article 42

Rules applicable to communication

1. All communication and information exchange mentioned in this Title may be performed by letter, by fax, by electronic means in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5, by telephone in the cases and circumstances referred to in paragraph 6, or by a combination of those means, according to the choice of the contracting authority.
2. The means of communication chosen must be generally available and thus not restrict economic operators' access to the tendering procedure.

3. Communication and the exchange and storage of information shall be carried out in such a way as to ensure that the integrity of data and the confidentiality of tenders and requests to participate are preserved, and that the contracting authorities examine the content of tenders and requests to participate only after the time-limit set for submitting them has expired.
4. The tools to be used for communicating by electronic means, as well as their technical characteristics, must be non-discriminatory, generally available and interoperable with the information and communication technology products in general use.
5. The following rules are applicable to devices for the electronic receipt of offers and requests to participate:
 - (a) information regarding the specifications necessary for the electronic submission of offers and requests to participate, including encryption, must be available to interested parties. Moreover, the devices for the electronic receipt of offers and requests to participate must conform to the requirements of Annex X;
 - (b) Member States may introduce or maintain voluntary accreditation schemes aiming at enhanced levels of certification service provision for these devices;
 - (c) tenderers or candidates shall undertake to submit, before expiry of the time-limit laid down for submission of tenders or requests to participate, the documents, certificates, attestations and declarations mentioned in Articles 46 to 50 and Article 52 if they do not exist in electronic format.
6. Rules applicable to the transmission of requests to participate:
 - (a) requests to participate in procedures for the award of public contracts may be made in writing or by telephone;
 - (b) where requests to participate are made by telephone, a written confirmation must be sent before expiry of the time-limit set for their receipt;
 - (c) contracting authorities may require that requests for participation made by fax must be confirmed by post or by electronic means, where this is necessary for the purposes of legal proof. Any such requirement, together with the deadline for sending confirmation by post or electronic means, must be stated by the contracting authority in the contract notice.

Section 5

Reports

Article 43

Content of reports

For every contract and framework agreement, and every implementation of a dynamic purchasing system, the contracting authorities shall draw up a written report which shall include at least the following:

- (a) the name and address of the contracting authority, the subject and value of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system;
- (b) the names of the candidates or tenderers admitted and the reasons for their selection;
- (c) the names of the candidates or tenderers rejected and the reasons for their rejection;
- (d) the reasons for the rejection of tenders found to be abnormally low;
- (e) the name of the successful tenderer and the reasons why his tender was selected and, if known, the share of the contract or framework agreement which the successful tenderer intends to subcontract to third parties;
- (f) for negotiated procedures, the circumstances referred to in Articles 29 and 31 which justify the use of these procedures;
- (g) as far as the competitive dialogue is concerned, the circumstances as laid down in Article 30 justifying the use of this procedure;
- (h) if necessary, the reasons why the contracting authority has decided not to award a contract or framework agreement or to implement a dynamic purchasing system.

The contracting authorities shall take appropriate steps to document the progress of award procedures conducted by electronic means.

The report, or the main features of it, shall be communicated to the Commission if it so requests.

CHAPTER VII

Conduct of the procedure

Section 1

General provisions

Article 43a

Verification of the suitability and choice of participants and award of contracts

1. Contracts shall be awarded on the basis of the criteria laid down in Articles 53 and 54, taking into account Article 25, after the suitability of the economic operators not excluded under Articles 46 and 47 has been checked by contracting authorities in accordance with the criteria of economic and financial standing and of professional and technical knowledge or capability referred to in Articles 48 to 52 and, where appropriate, with the non-discriminatory rules and criteria referred to in paragraph 3.
2. The contracting authorities may require the minimum capacity levels in accordance with Articles 48 and 49 which candidates and tenderers must meet.

The extent of the information referred to in Articles 48 and 49 and the minimum capacity levels required for a specific contract must be related and proportionate to the subject-matter of the contract.

These minimum levels shall be indicated in the contract notice.

3. In restricted procedures, negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice and in the competitive dialogue, contracting authorities may restrict the number of suitable candidates they will invite to tender, to negotiate or to participate, provided a sufficient number of suitable candidates is available. The contracting authorities shall indicate in the contract notice the objective and non-discriminatory criteria or rules they intend to apply, the minimum number of candidates they intend to invite and, where appropriate, the maximum number.
4. In restricted procedure the minimum shall be five. In the negotiated procedure with publication of a contract notice and the competitive dialogue the minimum shall be three. In any event the number of candidates invited shall be sufficient to ensure genuine competition.

The contracting authorities shall invite a number of candidates at least equal to the minimum number set in advance. Where the number of candidates meeting the selection criteria and the minimum levels is below the minimum number, the contracting authority may continue the procedure by inviting the candidate(s) with the required capabilities. In the context of this same procedure, the contracting authority may not include other economic operators who did not request to participate, or candidates who do not have the required capabilities.

5. Where the contracting authorities exercise the option of reducing the number of solutions to be discussed or of tenders to be negotiated, as provided for in Articles 30(4) and 29(4), they shall do so by applying the award criteria stated in the contract notice, in the specifications or in the descriptive document. In the final stage, the number arrived at shall make for genuine competition insofar as there are enough solutions or suitable candidates.

Section 2

Criteria for qualitative selection

Article 46

Personal situation of the candidate or tenderer

1. Any candidate or tenderer who has been the subject of a conviction by definitive judgment of which the contracting authority is aware for one or more of the reasons listed below shall be excluded from participation in a public contract:
- (a) participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2(1) of the Joint Action of 21 December 1998;
 - (b) corruption, as defined in Article 3 of the Council Act of 26 May 1997 and Article 3(1) of the Joint Action of 22 December 1998 respectively;
 - (c) fraud within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention relating to the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities established by the Council Act of 26 July 1995.
 - (d) money laundering, as defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 91/308/EEC of 10 June 1991 on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering³², as amended by Directive 2001/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 December 2001³³.

Member States shall specify, in accordance with their national law and having regard for Community law, the implementing conditions for this paragraph.³⁴

They may provide for a derogation from the requirement referred to in the first subparagraph for reasons of overriding general interest.

³² OJ L 166, 28.6.1991, pp. 77-83.

³³ OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, pp. 76-82.

³⁴ The A delegation said that it would be making a unilateral statement within the Council on the implementation of this provision.

For the purposes of this paragraph, the contracting authorities shall, where appropriate, ask candidates or tenderers to supply the documents referred to in paragraph 3 and may, where they have doubts concerning the personal situation of such candidates or tenderers, also apply to the competent authorities to obtain any information they consider necessary³⁵ on the personal situation of the candidates or tenderers concerned. Where the information concerns a candidate or tenderer established in a State other than that of the contracting authority, the contracting authority may seek the cooperation of the competent authorities. Having regard for the national laws of the Member State where the candidates or tenderers are established, such requests shall relate to legal and/or natural persons, including, if appropriate, company directors and any person having powers of representation, decision or control in respect of the candidate or tenderer.

2. Any economic operator may be excluded from participation in a contract who:
- (a) is bankrupt or is being wound up, whose affairs are being administered by the court, who has entered into an arrangement with creditors, who has suspended business activities or who is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under national laws and regulations;
 - (b) is the subject of proceedings for a declaration of bankruptcy, for an order for compulsory winding up or administration by the court or for composition with creditors or of any other similar proceedings under national laws and regulations;
 - (c) has been convicted by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* in accordance with the legal provisions of the country of any offence concerning his professional conduct;
 - (d) has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authorities can demonstrate;
 - (e) has not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which he is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority;
 - (f) has not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which he is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority;
 - (g) is guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying the information required under this Section or has not supplied such information;

Member States shall specify, in accordance with their national law and having regard for Community law, the implementing conditions for this paragraph.

³⁵ The P delegation said that it would be making a unilateral statement within the Council on the implementation of this provision.

3. Contracting authorities shall accept the following as sufficient evidence that none of the cases specified in paragraphs 1 or 2(a), (b), (c), (e) or (f) applies to the economic operator:
 - (a) as regards paragraphs 1 and 2(a), (b) and (c), the production of an extract from the "judicial record" or, failing that, of an equivalent document issued by a competent judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or the country whence that person comes showing that these requirements have been met;
 - (b) as regards paragraph 2(e) and (f), a certificate issued by the competent authority in the Member State concerned.

Where the country in question does not issue such documents or certificates, or where these do not cover all the cases specified in paragraphs 1 and 2(a), (b) and (c), they may be replaced by a declaration on oath or, in Member States where there is no provision for declarations on oath, by a solemn declaration made by the person concerned before a competent judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a competent professional or trade body, in the country of origin or in the country whence that person comes.

4. Member States shall designate the authorities and bodies competent to issue the documents, certificates or declarations referred to in paragraph 3 and shall inform the Commission thereof. Such notification shall be without prejudice to data protection law.

Article 47

Suitability to pursue the professional activity

Any economic operator wishing to take part in a public contract may be requested to prove his enrolment, as prescribed in his Member State of establishment, in one of the professional or trade registers or to provide a declaration on oath or certificate as described in Annex IXA for public supply contracts, in Annex IXB for public service contracts and in Annex IXC for public works contracts.

In procedures for the award of public service contracts, insofar as candidates for a public contract or tenderers have to possess a particular authorisation or to be members of a particular organisation in their country of origin in order to be able to perform the service concerned, the contracting authority may require them to prove that they hold such authorisation or membership.

Article 48

Economic and financial standing

1. Proof of the economic operator's economic and financial standing may, as a general rule, be furnished by one or more of the following references:
 - (a) appropriate statements from banks or, where appropriate, evidence of relevant professional risk indemnity insurance;
 - (b) the presentation of balance-sheets or extracts from the balance-sheets, where publication of the balance-sheet is required under the law of the country in which the economic operator is established;
 - (c) a statement of the undertaking's overall turnover and, where appropriate, of turnover in the area covered by the contract for a maximum of the last three financial years available, depending on the date on which the undertaking was set up or the economic operator started trading, as far as the references of this turnover are available.
2. An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary, for example, by producing the undertaking of those entities to that effect.
- 2a Under the same conditions a group of economic operators as referred to Article 3 may rely on the capacities of participants in the group or in other entities.
3. Contracting authorities shall specify, in the contract notice or in the invitation to tender, which reference or references mentioned in paragraph 1 they have chosen and which other references must be provided.
4. If, for any valid reason, the economic operator is unable to provide the references requested by the contracting authority, he may prove his economic and financial standing by any other document which the contracting authority considers appropriate.

Article 49

Technical and/or professional capability

1. The technical and/or professional capabilities of the economic operators shall be assessed and examined in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.

2. Evidence of the economic operators' technical capability may be furnished by one or more of the following means according to the nature, quantity or scale, and purpose of the supplies, services or works:
- (1)(a) a list of the works carried out over the past five years, accompanied by certificates of satisfactory execution for the most important works. These certificates shall indicate the value, date and site of the works and shall specify whether they were carried out according to the rules of the trade and properly completed. Where necessary, the competent authority shall submit these certificates to the contracting authority direct;
 - (b) a list of the principal deliveries effected or the main services provided in the past three years, with the sums, dates and recipients, public or private, involved. Evidence of delivery and services provided shall be given:
 - here the recipient was a contracting authority, in the form of certificates issued or countersigned by the competent authority;
 - where the recipient was a private purchaser, by the purchaser's certification or, failing this, simply by a declaration by the economic operator;
 - (2) indication of the technicians or technical bodies involved, whether or not belonging directly to the economic operator, especially those responsible for quality control and, in the case of public works contracts, which the contractor can call upon for carrying out the work;
 - (3) a description of the technical facilities and measures used by the supplier or service provider for ensuring quality and his undertaking's study and research facilities;
 - (4) where the products or services to be supplied are complex or, exceptionally, are required for a special purpose, a check carried out by the contracting authorities or on their behalf by a competent official body of the country in which the supplier or service provider is established, subject to that body's agreement, on the production capacities of the supplier or the technical capacity of the service provider and if necessary on his study and research facilities and quality control measures;
 - (5) the educational and professional qualifications of the service provider or contractor and/or those of the undertaking's managerial staff and, in particular, those of the person or persons responsible for providing the services or managing the work;

- (5a) for public works contracts and public services contracts, and only in appropriate cases, an indication of the environmental management measures that the economic operator will be able to apply when performing the contract;
 - (6) a statement of the average annual manpower of the service provider or contractor and the number of managerial staff for the last three years;
 - (7) a statement of the tools, plant or technical equipment available to the service provider or contractor for carrying out the services;
 - (8) an indication of the proportion of the contract which the services provider intends possibly to subcontract;
 - (9) with regard to the products to be supplied:
 - (a) samples, descriptions and/or photographs, the authenticity of which must be certified if the contracting authority so requests;
 - (b) certificates drawn up by official quality control institutes or agencies of recognised competence attesting the conformity of products clearly identified by references to specifications or standards.
3. An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the execution of the contract, for example, by producing the undertaking of those entities to place the necessary resources at the disposal of the economic operator.
- 3a Under the same conditions a group of economic operators as referred to Article 3 may rely on the capacities of participants in the group or in other entities.
4. In the procedures for awarding public contracts having as their object supplies requiring siting or installation work, the provision of services and/or the execution of works, the ability of economic operators to provide the service or to execute the installation or the work may be evaluated in particular with regard to their skills, efficiency, experience and reliability.
5. The contracting authority shall specify, in the notice or in the invitation to tender, which references under paragraph 2 it wishes to receive.

Article 50

Quality assurance standards

Should they require the production of certificates drawn up by independent bodies attesting the compliance of the economic operator with certain quality assurance standards, contracting authorities shall refer to quality assurance systems based on the relevant European standards series certified by bodies conforming to the European standards series concerning certification. They shall recognise equivalent certificates from bodies established in other Member States. They shall also accept other evidence of equivalent quality assurance measures from economic operators

Article 50a

Environmental management standards

Should contracting authorities, in the cases referred to in Article 49(2)(5)(a), require the production of certificates drawn up by independent bodies attesting the compliance of the economic operator with certain environmental management standards, they shall refer to the Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or to environmental management standards based on the relevant European or international standards certified by bodies conforming to Community law or the relevant European or international standards concerning certification. They shall recognise equivalent certificates from bodies established in other Member States. They shall also accept other evidence of equivalent environmental management measures from economic operators .

Article 51

Additional documentation and information

The contracting authority may invite the economic operators to supplement or clarify the certificates and documents submitted pursuant to Articles 46 to 50.

Article 52

*Official lists of approved economic operators and certification by bodies established in public or private law*³⁶

1. Member States may introduce either official lists of approved contractors, suppliers or service providers or certification by certification bodies established in public or private law.

The Member States shall adapt the conditions for registration in these lists and for the issue of certificates by certification bodies to Article 46(1), Article 46(2)(a) to (d) and (g), Article 47, Article 48(1), (3) and (4), Article 49(1), (2), (4) and (5), Article 50 and, where appropriate, Article 50a.

The Member States shall also adapt them to Article 48(2) and Article 49(3) as regards applications for registration submitted by economic operators belonging to a group and claiming resources made available to them by the other companies in the group. In such case, these operators must prove to the authority establishing the official list that they will have these resources at their disposal throughout the period of validity of the certificate attesting to their being registered in the official list and that throughout the same period these companies continue to fulfil the qualitative selection requirements laid down in the articles mentioned in the previous subparagraph on which operators rely for their registration.

2. Economic operators registered in the official lists or having a certificate may, for each contract, submit to the contracting authority a certificate of registration issued by the competent authority or the certificate issued by the competent certification body. The certificates shall state the references which enabled them to be registered in the list/to obtain certification and the classification given in that list.
3. Certified registration in official lists by the competent bodies or a certificate issued by the certification body shall not, for the purposes of the contracting authorities of other Member States, constitute a presumption of suitability except as regards Articles 46(1) and (2)(a) to (d) and (g), Article 47, Article 48(1)(b) and (c), and Article 49(2)(1)(a), (2), (5), (6) and (7) in the case of contractors, (2)(1)(b), (2), (3), (4) and (9) in the case of suppliers and 2(1)(b) and (3) to (8) in the case of service providers.
4. Information which can be deduced from registration in official lists or certification may not be questioned without justification. With regard to the payment of social security contributions and taxes, an additional certificate may be required of any registered economic operator whenever a contract is offered.

The contracting authorities of other Member States shall apply paragraph 3 and the first subparagraph of this paragraph only in favour of economic operators established in the country holding the official list.

³⁶ Positive scrutiny reservations from the P and B delegations.

5. For any registration of economic operators of other Member States in an official list or for their certification by the bodies referred to in paragraph 1, no further proof or statements can be required other than those requested of national economic operators and, in any event, only those provided for under Articles 46 to 50 and, where appropriate, Article 50a.

However, economic operators from other Member States may not be obliged to undergo such registration or certification in order to participate in a public contract. The contracting authorities shall recognise equivalent certificates from bodies established in other Member States. They shall also accept other equivalent means of proof.

- 5a. Economic operators may ask at any time to be registered in an official list or for a certificate to be issued. They must be informed within a reasonably short period of time of the decision of the authority drawing up the list or of the competent certification body.
6. The certification bodies referred to in paragraph 1 shall be bodies complying with European certification standards.
7. Member States which have official lists or certification bodies as referred to in paragraph 1 shall be obliged to inform the Commission and the other Member States of the address of the body to which applications should be sent.

Section 3

The award of the contract

Article 53

Contract award criteria

1. Without prejudice to national laws, regulations or administrative provisions concerning the remuneration of certain services, the criteria on which the contracting authorities shall base the award of public contracts shall be either:
 - (a) when award is made to the tender most economically advantageous for the contracting authorities, various criteria justified by the subject of the public contract in question: for example, quality, price, technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, environmental characteristics, running costs, cost-effectiveness, after-sales service and technical assistance, delivery date and delivery period or period of completion or
 - (b) the lowest price only.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of the third subparagraph, in the case referred to in paragraph 1(a) the contracting authority shall specify in the contract notice or in the contract documents or, in the case of a competitive dialogue, in the descriptive document, the relative weighting which it gives to each of the criteria chosen to determine the most economically advantageous tender.

That weighting can be expressed by providing for a range with an appropriate maximum spread.

Where it is not possible to indicate the weighting, the contracting authority shall indicate in the contract notice or contract documents or, in the case of a competitive dialogue, in the descriptive document, the descending order of importance attaching to the criteria³⁷.

Article 53a

Use of electronic auctions

1. Member States may stipulate that contracting authorities may use electronic auctions.
2. In open, restricted or negotiated procedures in the case referred to in Article 29(1)(a), the contracting authorities may decide that the award of a public contract shall be preceded by an electronic auction when the contract specifications can be established with precision.

In the same circumstances, an electronic auction may be held on the reopening of competition among the parties to a framework agreement as provided for in the second indent of the second subparagraph of Article 32(4) and on the opening for competition of contracts to be awarded under the dynamic purchasing system referred to in Article 32a.

The electronic auction shall be based:

- either solely on prices when the contract is awarded to the lowest price:
 - or on prices and/or on the new values of the features of the tenders indicated in the specification when the contract is awarded to the most economically advantageous tender.
3. Contracting authorities which decide to hold an electronic auction shall state that fact in the contract notice.

The specifications shall include, inter alia, the following details:

- (a) the features, the value of which will be the subject of electronic auction, provided that such features are quantifiable and can be expressed in figures or percentages;

³⁷ Scrutiny reservation from the D delegation.

- (b) any limits on the values which may be submitted, as they result from the specifications relating to the subject of the contract;
 - (c) the information which will be made available to tenderers in the course of the electronic auction and, where appropriate, when it will be made available to them;
 - (d) the relevant information concerning the electronic auction process;
 - (e) the conditions under which the tenderers will be able to bid and, in particular, the minimum differences which will, where appropriate, be required in bidding;
 - (f) the relevant information concerning the electronic equipment used and the arrangements and technical specifications for connection.
4. Before proceeding with the electronic auction, contracting authorities shall make a full initial evaluation of the tenders in accordance with the award criterion/criteria set and with the weighting fixed for them.

All tenderers who have submitted admissible tenders shall be invited simultaneously by electronic means to submit new prices and/or new values; the invitation shall contain all relevant information concerning individual connection to the electronic equipment being used and shall state the date and time of the start of the electronic auction. The electronic auction may take place in a number of successive phases. The electronic auction may not start sooner than two working days after the date on which invitations are sent out.

5. When the contract is to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender, the invitation shall be accompanied by the outcome of the full evaluation of the recipient's tender, carried out in accordance with the weighting provided for in the first subparagraph of Article 53(2).

The invitation shall also state the mathematical formula to be used in the electronic auction to determine automatic rerankings on the basis of the new prices and/or new values submitted. That formula shall incorporate the weighting of all the criteria fixed to determine the most economically advantageous tender, as indicated in the contract notice or in the specifications; for that purpose, any brackets shall, however, be reduced beforehand by a specified value.

Where variants are authorised, a separate formula shall be provided for each variant.

6. Throughout each phase of an electronic auction the contracting authorities shall instantaneously communicate to all tenderers at least sufficient information to enable them to ascertain their relative rankings at any moment; they may also communicate other information concerning other prices or values submitted, provided that that is stated in the specifications; they may also at any time announce the number of participants in that phase of the auction; in no case, however, may they disclose the identities of the tenderers during any phase of an electronic auction.
7. The contracting authorities shall close an electronic auction in one or more of the following manners:
 - (a) in the invitation to take part in the auction they shall indicate the date and time fixed in advance;
 - (b) when they receive no more new prices or new values which meet the requirements concerning minimum differences. In that event, the contracting authorities shall state in the invitation to take part in the auction the time which they will allow to elapse after receiving the last submission before they close the electronic auction;
 - (c) when the number of phases in the auction, fixed in the invitation to take part in the auction, has been completed.

When the contracting authorities have decided to close an electronic auction in accordance with subparagraph (c), possibly in combination with the arrangements laid down in subparagraph (b), the invitation to take part in the auction shall indicate the timetable for each phase of the auction.

8. When they have closed an electronic auction the contracting authorities shall award the contract in accordance with Article 53 on the basis of the results of the electronic auction. The contracting authorities may not have improper recourse to electronic auctions nor may they use them in such a way as to prevent, restrict or distort competition or to change the subject of the contract, as put up for tender in the published contract notice and defined in the specification.

Article 54

Abnormally low tenders

1. If, for a given contract, tenders appear to be abnormally low in relation to the goods, works or services, the contracting authority shall, before it may reject those tenders, request in writing details of the constituent elements of the tender which it considers relevant.

Those details may relate in particular to:

- (a) the economics of the manufacturing process, of the services provided and of the construction method;
 - (b) the technical solutions chosen and/or the exceptionally favourable conditions available to the tenderer for the supply of the goods or services or for the execution of the work;
 - (c) the originality of the supplies, services or work proposed by the tenderer;
 - (ca) compliance with the provisions relating to employment protection and working conditions in force at the place where the work or service is to be performed.
 - (d) the possibility of the tenderer obtaining State aid.
2. The contracting authority shall verify those constituent elements by consulting the tenderer, taking account of the evidence supplied.
3. Where a contracting authority establishes that a tender is abnormally low on grounds that the tenderer has obtained a State aid, the tender can only be rejected on such grounds alone after consultation with the tenderer where the latter is unable to prove, within a sufficient timeframe fixed by the contracting authority, that the aid in question was granted legally. Where the contracting authority rejects a tender in these circumstances, it shall inform the Commission of that fact.

TITLE III

Rules on public works concessions

CHAPTER I

Rules governing public works concessions

Article 64

Scope

The provisions under this Chapter shall apply to all public works concession contracts concluded by the contracting authorities where the value of the contracts is equal to or greater than EUR 6 242 000.

The value shall be calculated in accordance with the rules applicable to public works contracts defined in Article 10.

Article 65

Exclusions from the scope

The provisions of this Title shall not apply to public works concessions which are awarded:

- (1) in the same cases referred to in Articles 15, 16 and 17 in respect of public works contracts;
- (2) by contracting authorities exercising³⁸ one or more of the activities referred to in Articles 3 to 6 of Directive .../... coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy and transport sectors, where those concessions are awarded for carrying out those activities.

Article 66

Publication of the notice concerning public works concessions

1. Contracting authorities which wish to award a public works concession contract shall make known their intention by means of a notice.
2. Notices of public works concessions shall contain the information referred to in Annex VIIC and, where appropriate, any other information deemed useful by the contracting authority, in accordance with the standard forms adopted by the Commission pursuant to the procedure in Article 76(2).
3. Notices shall be published in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article 35(2) to (8).
4. Article 36 on the publication of notices shall also apply to public works concessions.

Article 67

Time limit for the submission of applications

When contracting authorities resort to a public works concession, the time limit for the presentation of applications for the concession shall be not less than 52 days from the date of dispatch of the notice.

Article 37(5) and (7) shall apply.

³⁸ The English text should use the word "exercising" here.

Article 68

Subcontracting

The contracting authority may either:

- (a) require the concessionaire to award contracts representing a minimum of 30% of the total value of the work for which the concession contract is to be awarded, to third parties, at the same time providing the option for candidates to increase this percentage, this minimum percentage being specified in the concession contract, or
- (b) request the candidates for concession contracts to specify in their tenders the percentage, if any, of the total value of the work for which the concession contract is to be awarded which they intend to assign to third parties.

Article 71a

Awarding of additional works to the concessionaire

This Directive shall not apply to additional works not included in the concession project initially considered or in the initial contract but which have, through unforeseen circumstances, become necessary for the performance of the work described therein, which the contracting authority has awarded to the concessionaire, on condition that the award is made to the economic operator performing such work:

- when such additional works cannot be technically or economically separated from the initial contract without major inconvenience to the contracting authorities, or
- when such works, although separable from the performance of the initial contract, are strictly necessary for its completion.

However, the aggregate value of contracts awarded for additional works may not exceed 50% of the amount of the original contract.

CHAPTER II

Rules on contracts awarded by concessionaires which are contracting authorities

Article 69

Rules applicable

Where the concessionaire is a contracting authority as referred to in Article 1(5), it shall comply with the provisions laid down by this Directive for public works contracts in the case of works to be carried out by third parties.

CHAPTER III

Rules applicable to contracts awarded by concessionaires which are not contracting authorities

Article 71

Advertising rules: threshold and exceptions

1. The Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that public works concessionaires which are not contracting authorities apply the advertising rules defined in Article 72 when awarding works contracts to third parties where the value of such contracts is equal to or greater than EUR 6 242 000.

Advertising shall not, however, be required where a works contract satisfies the conditions listed in Article 31.

The values of contracts shall be calculated in accordance with the rules applicable to public works contracts laid down in Article 10.

2. Groups of undertakings which have been formed to obtain the concession or undertakings related to them shall not be considered third parties.

"Related undertaking" shall mean any undertaking on which the concessionaire can exert a dominant influence, directly or indirectly, or any undertaking which can exert a dominant influence on the concessionaire or which, as the concessionaire, is subject to the dominant influence of another undertaking as a result of ownership, financial participation or the rules which govern it. A dominant influence on the part of an undertaking is presumed when, directly or indirectly in relation to another undertaking, it:

- (a) holds a majority of the undertaking's subscribed capital,
- (b) controls a majority of the votes attached to the shares issued by the undertaking, or
- (c) can appoint more than half of the undertaking's administrative, management or supervisory body.

The exhaustive list of such undertakings shall be included in the application for the concession. That list shall be brought up to date following any subsequent changes in the relationship between the undertakings.

Article 72

Publication of the notice

1. Works concessionaires which are not contracting authorities and which wish to award works contracts to a third party shall make known their intention by way of a notice.
2. Notices shall contain the information referred to in Annex VII C and, where appropriate, any other information deemed useful by the works concessionaire, in accordance with the standard form adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure in Article 76(2).
3. The notice shall be published in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article 35(2) to (8).
4. Article 36 on the voluntary publication of notices shall also apply.

Article 73

Time limit for the receipt of requests to participate and receipt of tenders

In works contracts awarded by a works concessionaire which is not a contracting authority, the time limit for the receipt of requests to participate, fixed by the concessionaire, shall be not less than 37 days from the date on which the contract notice was dispatched and the time limit for the receipt of tenders not less than 40 days from the date on which the contract notice or the invitation to tender was dispatched.

Article 37(5), (6) and (7) shall apply.

TITLE IV

Rules governing service design contests

Article 56

General provisions

1. The rules for the organisation of contests shall be in conformity with Articles 56 to 63a and shall be communicated to those interested in participating in the contest.
2. The admission of participants to design contests shall not be limited:
 - (a) by reference to the territory or part of the territory of a Member State;
 - (b) on the grounds that, under the law of the Member State in which the contest is organised, they would have been required to be either natural or legal persons.

Article 57

Scope

1. In accordance with the provisions laid down in this Title, design contests shall be organised by:
 - (a) contracting authorities which are listed as central government authorities in Annex IV, where the value is equal to or greater than EUR 162 000;
 - (b) contracting authorities not listed in Annex IV, where the value is equal to or greater than EUR 249 000;
 - (c) by all the contracting authorities, starting from a threshold equal to or greater than EUR 249 000 where contests concern services in category 8 of Annex IIA, category 5 telecommunications services, the positions of which in the CPV are equivalent to reference Nos CPC 7524, 7525 and 7526 and/or services listed in Annex IIB.
2. This Title shall apply to:
 - (a) design contests organised as part of a procedure leading to the award of a public service contract;
 - (b) design contests with prizes and/or payments to participants.

In the cases referred to in (a) the threshold refers to the estimated value net of VAT of the public services contract, including any prizes and/or payments to participants.

In the cases referred to in (b), the threshold refers to the total amount of the prizes and payments, including the estimated value net of VAT of the public services contract which might subsequently be concluded under Article 31(3) if the contracting authority does not exclude such an award in the contest notice.

Article 58

Exclusions from the scope

This Title shall not apply to:

- (1) service contests within the meaning of Directive .../... on the coordination of procedures for the award of contracts in the water, energy and transport sectors³⁹ which are organised by contracting authorities exercising one or more of the activities referred to in Articles 3 to 6 of that Directive and are organised for the pursuit of such activities; nor shall it apply to contests excluded from the scope of that Directive;
- (2) contests which are organised in the same cases referred to in Articles 15 to 17 for public service contracts.

Article 59

Notices

1. Contracting authorities which wish to carry out a design contest shall make known their intention by means of a contest notice.
2. Contracting authorities which have held a design contest shall send a notice of the results of the contest in accordance with Article 35 and must be able to prove the date of dispatch.

Where the release of information on the outcome of the contest would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest or would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of a particular enterprise, public or private, or might prejudice fair competition between service providers, such information need not be published.

3. Article 36 concerning publication of notices shall also apply to contests.

³⁹ Full title to be inserted.

Article 60

Form and manner of publication of notices of contests

1. The notices referred to in Article 59 shall contain the information referred to in Annex VII D in accordance with the standard model notices adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure in Article 76(2).
2. The notices shall be published in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article 35(2) to (8).

Article 61

Means of communication

1. Article 42(1), (2) and (4) shall apply to all communications relating to contests.
2. Communications, exchanges and the storage of information shall be such as to ensure that the integrity and the confidentiality of all information communicated by the participants in a contest are preserved and that the jury ascertains the contents of plans and projects only after the expiry of the time limit for their submission.
3. The following rules shall apply to the devices for the electronic receipt of plans and projects:
 - (a) the information relating to the specifications which is necessary for the presentation of plans and projects by electronic means, including encryption, shall be available to the parties concerned. In addition, the devices for the electronic receipt of plans and projects shall comply with the requirements of Annex X;
 - (b) the Member States may introduce or maintain voluntary arrangements for accreditation intended to improve the level of the certification service provided for such devices.

Article 62

Selection of competitors

Where design contests are restricted to a limited number of participants, the contracting authorities shall lay down clear and non-discriminatory selection criteria. In any event, the number of candidates invited to participate shall be sufficient to ensure genuine competition.

Article 63

Composition of the jury

The jury shall be composed exclusively of natural persons who are independent of participants in the contest. Where a particular professional qualification is required from participants in a contest, at least a third of the members of the jury shall have that qualification or its equivalent.

Article 63a

Decisions of the jury

1. The jury shall be autonomous in its decisions or opinions.
2. It shall examine the projects submitted by the candidates anonymously and solely on the grounds of the criteria indicated in the contest notice.
3. It shall record its ranking of projects in a report, signed by its members, made according to the merits of each project, together with its remarks and any points which may need clarification.
- 4a. Anonymity must be observed until the jury has reached its opinion or decision.
4. Candidates may be invited, if need be, to answer questions which the jury has recorded in the minutes to clarify any aspects of the projects.
5. Complete minutes shall be drawn up of the dialogue between jury members and candidates.

TITLE V

Statistical duties, executory powers and final provisions

Article 74

Statistical duties

In order to permit assessment of the results of applying this Directive, Member States shall forward to the Commission a statistical report, prepared in accordance with Article 75, separately addressing public supply, services and works contracts awarded by contracting authorities during the preceding year, not later than 31 October each year.

Article 75

Content of statistical report

1. For each contracting authority listed in Annex IV, the statistical report shall detail at least:
 - (a) the number and value of awarded contracts covered by this Directive;
 - (b) the number and total value of contracts awarded pursuant to derogations to the Agreement referred to in Article 4.

As far as possible, the data referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph shall be broken down by:

- (a) the contract award procedures used, and
- (b) for each of these procedures, works as given in Annex I and products and services as given in Annex II identified by category of the CPV nomenclature.
- (c) the nationality of the economic operator to whom the contract was awarded.

Where the contracts have been concluded according to the negotiated procedure, the data referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph shall also be broken down according to the circumstances referred to in Articles 29 and 31 and shall specify the number and value of contracts awarded, by Member State and third country of the successful contractor.

2. For each category of contracting authority which is not given in Annex IV, the statistical report shall detail at least:
 - (a) the number and value of the contracts awarded, broken down in accordance with the second subparagraph of paragraph 1;
 - (b) the total value of contracts awarded pursuant to derogations to the Agreement.
3. The statistical report shall set out any other statistical information which is required under the Agreement.

The information referred to in the first subparagraph shall be determined pursuant to the procedure under Article 76(2).

Article 76

Advisory Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Advisory Committee for Public Contracts set up by Article 1 of Council Decision 71/306/EEC ⁴⁰ (hereinafter "the Committee").
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 3 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, in compliance with Article 8 thereof.
3. The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

Article 77

Revision of the thresholds

1. The Commission shall verify the thresholds established in Article 8 every two years from the entry into force of this Directive and shall, if necessary with regard to subparagraph 2, revise them in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 76(2).

The calculation of the value of these thresholds shall be based on the average daily value of the euro, expressed in SDRs, over the 24 months terminating on the last day of August preceding the revision with effect from 1 January. The value of the thresholds thus revised shall, where necessary, be rounded down to the nearest thousand euro so as to ensure that the thresholds in force provided for by the Agreement, expressed in SDRs, are observed.

2. At the same time as the revision under paragraph 1, the Commission, in accordance with the procedure under Article 76(2), shall align:
 - (a) the thresholds established in the first paragraph of Article 9 (subsidised contracts), in Article 64 (concessions) and in Article 71 (contracts awarded by the concessionaire) on the revised threshold applying to public works contracts;
 - (b) the thresholds established in the second paragraph of Article 9 (subsidised services), and in Article 57(1)(a) (contests organised by central government authorities) on the revised threshold applying to public service contracts concluded by the contracting authorities referred to in Annex IV;
 - (c) the threshold established in Article 57(b) (service contracts awarded by contracting authorities other than central government authorities) on the revised threshold applying to public service contracts awarded by the contracting authorities not included in Annex IV.

⁴⁰ OJ L 185, 16.8.1971, p. 15. Decision as amended by Decision 77/63/EEC (OJ L 13, 15.1.1977, p. 15).

3. The value of the thresholds set pursuant to paragraph 1 in the national currencies of the Member States which are not participating in monetary union is normally to be adjusted every two years from 1 January 2004 onwards. The calculation of such value shall be based on the average daily values of those currencies expressed in euro over the 24 months terminating on the last day of August preceding the revision with effect from 1 January.
4. The revised thresholds referred to in paragraph 1 and their corresponding values in the national currencies referred to in paragraph 3 shall be published by the Commission in the Official Journal of the European Communities at the beginning of the month of November following their revision.

Article 78⁴¹

Amendments

1. In accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 76(2), the Commission may amend:
 - (a) the technical procedures for the calculation methods set out in Article 77(1), second subparagraph, and (3);
 - (b) the procedures for the drawing-up, transmission, receipt, translation, collection and distribution of the notices referred to in Articles 34, 59, 66 and 71(1), first subparagraph, and the statistical reports provided for in Articles 34(3), third subparagraph, 74 and 75;
 - (c) the special procedures for reference to the CPV nomenclature in the notices;
 - (d) the lists of bodies and categories of bodies governed by public law in Annex III, when, on the basis of the notifications from the Member States, amendments appear necessary;
 - (e) the lists of central government authorities in Annex IV, following any adaptations which might prove necessary subsequent to the agreements concluded within the World Trade Organisation;
 - (f) the nomenclature set out in Annex I, insofar as this does not change the material scope of the Directive, and the procedures for reference to particular positions of this nomenclature in the notices;

⁴¹ Reservations from the D and A delegations. A submitted some suggestions for amending this Article. The Commission has a scrutiny reservation on the A delegation's proposal.

- (g) the nomenclature set out in Annex II, insofar as this does not change the material scope of the Directive, and the procedures for reference in the notices to particular provisions in this nomenclature within the categories of services listed in the said Annexes;
- (h) the procedure for sending and publishing data referred to in Annex VIII;
- (i) the technical details and characteristics of the equipment for electronic receipt referred to in Annex X.

Article 79

Implementation

The Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive no later than 21 months after its entry into force. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

When Member States adopt these measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such reference shall be laid down by Member States.

Article 80

Repeals

Directives 92/50/EEC, 93/36/EEC and 93/37/EEC are repealed with effect from the date shown in Article 79, without prejudice to the obligations of the Member States concerning the deadlines for transposition set out in Annex XI.

References to the repealed Directives shall be construed as references to this Directive and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex XII.

Article 82

Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I LIST OF THE ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 1(2), THIRD SUBPARAGRAPH ⁴²

| NACE ⁴³ | | | | | CPV Code |
|--------------------|-------|---------|--|---|----------|
| SECTION F | | | CONSTRUCTION | | |
| Division | Group | Classes | Subject | Notes | |
| 45 | | | Construction | This division includes: construction of new buildings and works, restoring and common repairs | 45000000 |
| | 45.1 | | Site preparation | | 45100000 |
| | | 45.11 | Demolition and wrecking of buildings; earth moving | This class includes: – demolition of buildings and other structures – clearing of building sites – earth moving: excavation, landfill, levelling and grading of construction sites, trench digging, rock removal, blasting, etc. – site preparation for mining: overburden removal and other development and preparation of mineral properties and sites This class also includes: – building site drainage – drainage of agricultural or forestry land | 45110000 |

⁴² In the event of any difference of interpretation between the CPV and the NACE, the NACE nomenclature will apply.

⁴³ Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 of 9 October 1990 on the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (OJ L 293, 24.10.1990, p. 1), as amended by Commission Regulation (EEC) No 761/93 of 24 March 1993 (OJ L 83, 3.4.1993, p. 1).

| | | | | | |
|--|------|-------|--|---|----------|
| | | 45.12 | Test drilling and boring | <p>This class includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – test drilling, test boring and core sampling for construction, geophysical, geological or similar purposes <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – drilling of production oil or gas wells, see 11.20 – water well drilling, see 45.25 – shaft sinking, see 45.25 – oil and gas field exploration, geophysical, geological and seismic surveying, see 74.20 | 45120000 |
| | 45.2 | | Building of complete constructions or parts thereof; civil engineering | | 45200000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------|---|--|----------|
| | | 45.21 | General construction of buildings and civil engineering works | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>construction of all types of buildings</p> <p>construction of civil engineering constructions</p> <p>bridges, including those for elevated highways, viaducts, tunnels and subways</p> <p>long-distance pipelines, communication and power lines urban pipelines, urban communication and powerlines; ancillary urban works</p> <p>assembly and erection of prefabricated constructions on the site</p> <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <p>service activities incidental to oil and gas extraction, see 11.20</p> <p>erection of complete prefabricated constructions from self-manufactured parts not of concrete, see divisions 20, 26 and 28</p> <p>construction work, other than buildings, for stadiums, swimming pools, gymnasiums, tennis courts, golf courses and other sports installations, see 45.23</p> <p>building installation, see 45.3</p> <p>building completion, see 45.4</p> <p>architectural and engineering activities, see 74.20</p> <p>project management for construction, see 74.20</p> | 45210000 |
|--|--|-------|---|--|----------|

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------|---|--|----------|
| | | 45.22 | Erection of roof covering and frames | <p>This class includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> erection of roofs roof covering waterproofing | 45220000 |
| | | 45.23 | Construction of highways, roads, airfields and sport facilities | <p>This class includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> construction of highways, streets, roads, other vehicular and pedestrian ways construction of railways construction of airfield runways construction work, other than buildings, for stadiums, swimming pools, gymnasiums, tennis courts, golf courses and other sports installations painting of markings on road surfaces and car parks <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> preliminary earth moving, see 45.11 | 45230000 |
| | | 45.24 | Construction of water projects | <p>This class includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> construction of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> waterways, harbour and river works, pleasure ports (marinas), locks, etc. dams and dykes dredging subsurface work | 45240000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------|-------|--|---|----------|
| | | 45.25 | Other construction work involving special trades | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>construction activities specialising in one aspect common to different kinds of structures, requiring specialised skill or equipment:</p> <p>construction of foundations, including pile driving</p> <p>water well drilling and construction, shaft sinking</p> <p>erection of non-self-manufactured steel elements</p> <p>steel bending</p> <p>bricklaying and stone setting</p> <p>scaffolds and work platform erecting and dismantling, including renting of scaffolds and work platforms</p> <p>erection of chimneys and industrial ovens</p> <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <p>renting of scaffolds without erection and dismantling, see 71.32</p> | 45250000 |
| | 45.3 | | Building installation | | 45300000 |
| | | 45.31 | Installation of electrical wiring and fittings | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>installation in buildings or other construction projects of:</p> <p>electrical wiring and fittings</p> <p>telecommunications systems</p> <p>electrical heating systems</p> <p>residential antennas and aerials</p> <p>fire alarms</p> <p>burglar alarm systems</p> <p>lifts and escalators</p> <p>lightning conductors, etc.</p> | 45310000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------|-------|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| | | 45.32 | Insulation work activities | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>installation in buildings or other construction projects of thermal, sound or vibration insulation</p> <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <p>waterproofing, see 45.22</p> | 45320000 |
| | | 45.33 | Plumbing | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>installation in buildings or other construction projects of:</p> <p>plumbing and sanitary equipment</p> <p>gas fittings</p> <p>heating, ventilation, refrigeration or air-conditioning equipment and ducts</p> <p>sprinkler systems</p> <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <p>installation of electrical heating systems, see 45.31</p> | 45330000 |
| | | 45.34 | Other building installation | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>installation of illumination and signalling systems for roads, railways, airports and harbours</p> <p>installation in buildings or other construction projects of fittings and fixtures n.e.c.</p> | 45340000 |
| | 45.4 | | Building completion | | 45400000 |
| | | 45.41 | Plastering | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>application in buildings or other construction projects of interior and exterior plaster or stucco, including related lathing materials</p> | 45410000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------|-------------------------|---|----------|
| | | 45.42 | Joinery installation | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>installation of not self-manufactured doors, windows, door and window frames, fitted kitchens, staircases, shop fittings and the like, of wood or other materials</p> <p>interior completion such as ceilings, wooden wall coverings, movable partitions, etc.</p> <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <p>laying of parquet and other wood floor coverings, see 45.43</p> | 45420000 |
| | | 45.43 | Floor and wall covering | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>laying, tiling, hanging or fitting in buildings or other construction projects of:</p> <p>ceramic, concrete or cut stone wall or floor tiles</p> <p>parquet and other wood floor coverings</p> <p>carpets and linoleum floor coverings, including of rubber or plastic</p> <p>terrazzo, marble, granite or slate floor or wall coverings</p> <p>wallpaper</p> | 45430000 |
| | | 45.44 | Painting and glazing | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>interior and exterior painting of buildings</p> <p>painting of civil engineering structures</p> <p>installation of glass, mirrors, etc</p> <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <p>installation of windows, see 45.42</p> | 45440000 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------|-------|---|---|----------|
| | | 45.45 | Other building completion | <p>This class includes:</p> <p>installation of private swimming pools</p> <p>steam cleaning, sand blasting and similar activities for building exteriors</p> <p>other building completion and finishing work n.e.c</p> <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <p>interior cleaning of buildings and other structures, see 74.70</p> | 45450000 |
| | 45.5 | | Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operator | | 45500000 |
| | | 45.50 | Renting of construction or demolition equipment with operator | <p><i>This class excludes:</i></p> <p>renting of construction or demolition machinery and equipment without operators, see 71.32</p> | |

ANNEX II

SERVICES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 1(2), SECOND SUBPARAGRAPH

ANNEX II A ⁴⁴

| Category No | Subject | CPC Reference No ⁴⁵ | CPV Reference No |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Maintenance and repair services | 6112, 6122, 633, 886 | 50000000, 50100000, 50110000, 50111110, 50112000, 50112100, 50112110, 50112111, 50112120, 50112200, 50112300, 50113000, 50113100, 50113200, 50114000, 50114100, 50114200, 50115000, 50115100, 50115200, 50116000, 50116100, 50116200, 50116300, 50116400, 50116500, 50116510, 50116600, 50117000, 50117100, 50117200, 50117300, 50118000, 50118100, 50118110, 50118200, 50118300, 50118400, 50118500, 50200000, 50210000, 50211000, 50211100, 50211200, 50211210, 50211211, 50211212, 50211300, 50211310, 50212000, 50220000, 50221000, 50221100, 50221200, 50221300, 50221400, 50222000, 50222100, 50223000, 50224000, 50224100, 50224200, 50225000, 50230000, 50231000, 50231100, 50232000, 50232100, 50232200, 50240000, 50241000, 50241100, 50241200, 50242000, 50243000, 50244000, 50245000, 50246000, 50246100, 50246200, 50246300, 50246400, 50314000, 50315000, 50330000, 50331000, 50332000, 50333000, 50333100, 50333200, 50334000, 50334100, 50334110, 50334120, 50334130, 50334140, 50334200, 50334300, 50334400, 50340000, 50341000, 50341100, 50341200, 50342000, 50343000, 50344000, 50344100, 50344200, 50400000, 50410000, 50411000, 50411100, 50411200, 50411300, 50411400, 50411500, 50412000, 50413000, 50413100, 50413200, 50420000, 50421000, 50421100, 50421200, 50422000, 50430000, 50431000, 50432000, 50433000, |

⁴⁴ In the event of any difference of interpretation between the CPV and the CPC, the CPC nomenclature will apply.

⁴⁵ CPC Nomenclature (provisional version), used to define the scope of Directive 92/50/EEC.

| | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| | | | 50510000, 50511000, 50511100, 50511200, 50512000, 50513000, 50514000, 50514100, 50514200, 50530000, 50531000, 50531100, 50531200, 50531300, 50531400, 50531600, 50532000, 50532100, 50532200, 50532300, 50532400, 50800000, 50810000, 50820000, 50821000, 50822000, 50830000, 50840000, 50841000, 50842000, 50850000, 50860000, 50870000, 50880000, 50881000, 50882000, 50883000, 50884000, 50911000, 50911100, 50911110, 50911120, 50911130, 50911200, 50911210, 50911220, 50912100, 50913100, 50913300, 50913310, 50913400, 50913500, 50913510, 50914000, 50914100, 50914200, 50914300, 50914400, 50914500, 50914600, |
| | | | 50920000, 50921000, 50921100, 50922000, 50923000, 50924000, 50930000, 50931000, 50931100, 50931200, 50931300, 50931400, 50932000, 50932100, 50932200, 50933000, 50934000, 50935000, 50940000, 50941000, 50942000, 50951000, 50952000, 50952100, 50952110, 50952200, 50952400, 50952500, 50960000, 50961000, 50961100, 50961110, 50961200, 50962000, 50970000, 50971000, 50971100, 50971200, 50972000, 50973000, 50973100, 50973200, 50973300, 50973400, 50974000, 50974100, 50974200, 50974300, 50975000, 50975100, 50975200, 50975300, 50976000, 50976100, 50976200, 74732000, 74732100, 74741000, 74742000, 74743000 |
| 2 | Land transport services ⁴⁶ , including armoured car services, and courier services, except transport of mail | 712 (except 71235), 7512, 87304 | 55521200, 60110000, 60112000, 60112100, 60112200, 60112300, 60113000, 60113100, 60113310, 60113400, 60114000, 60115000, 60115100, 60115110, 60116000, 60116100, 60116200, 60116300, 60122110, 60122120, 60122130, 60122140, 60122150, 60122160, 60122161, 60122170, 60123100, 60123200, 60123300, 60123400, 60123500, 60123600, 64120000, 64121000, 64122000, 74612000 |

⁴⁶ Except for rail transport services covered by category 18.

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------|---|
| 3 | Air transport services of passengers and freight, except transport of mail | 73 (except 7321) | 62110000, 62122000, 62210000, 62230000, 62300000 |
| 4 | Transport of mail by land ⁴⁷ and by air | 71235, 7321 | 62121000 |
| 5 | Telecommunications services | 752 | 64200000, 64210000, 64211000, 64212000, 64213000, 64214000, 64214200, 64216000, 64216100, 64216110, 64216120, 64216130, 64216140, 64216200, 64216210, 64216300, 64221000, 64222000, 64223000, 64224000, 64225000, 64226000, 72315000, 72318000, 72511100 |
| 6 | Financial services: (a) Insurances services (b) Banking and investment services ⁴⁸ | ex 81, 812, 814 | 66000000, 66100000, 66110000, 66120000, 66130000, 66140000, 66200000, 66300000, 66310000, 66311000, 66312000, 66313000, 66314000, 66315000, 66316000, 66317000, 66320000, 66321000, 66330000, 66331000, 66332000, 66333000, 66334000, 66335000, 66340000, 66341000, 66342000, 66343000, 66343100, 66343200, 66350000, 66360000, 66370000, 66371000, 66372000, 66373000, 66374000, 66380000, 66381000, 66382000, 66383000, 66384000, 67200000, 67210000, |
| | | | 67211000, 67212000, 67220000, 67221000, 67230000, 67240000, 67250000, 67251000, 67260000 |
| 7 | Computer and related services | 84 | 50310000, 50311000, 50311400, 50312000, 50312100, 50312110, 50312120, 50312200, 50312210, 50312220, 50312300, 50312310, 50312320, 50312400, 50312410, 50312420, 50312500, 50312510, 50312520, 50312600, 50312610, 50312620, 50313000, 50313100, 50313200, 50316000, 50317000, |

⁴⁷ Except for rail transport services covered by category 18.

⁴⁸ Except financial services in connection with the issue, sale, purchase or transfer of securities or other financial instruments, and central bank services.

Also excluded: services involving the acquisition or rental, by whatever financial procedures, of land, existing buildings, or other immovable property or concerning rights thereon; nevertheless, financial services supplied at the same time as, before or after the contract of acquisition or rental, in whatever form, shall be subject to this Directive.

| | | | |
|----|---|----------|--|
| | | | 50320000, 50321000, 50322000, 50323000, 50323100, 50323200, 50324000, 50324100, 50324200, 72000000, 72100000, 72110000, 72120000, 72130000, 72140000, 72150000, 72200000, 72210000, 72211000, 72212000, 72220000, 72221000, 72222000, 72222100, 72222200, 72222300, 72223000, 72224000, 72224100, 72224200, 72225000, 72226000, 72227000, 72228000, 72230000, 72231000, 72232000, 72240000, 72241000, 72243000, 72245000, 72246000, 72250000, 72251000, 72252000, 72253000, 72253100, 72253200, 72254000, 72254100, 72260000, 72261000, 72262000, 72263000, 72264000, 72265000, 72266000, 72267000, 72268000, 72300000, 72310000, 72311000, 72311100, 72311200, 72311300, 72312000, 72312100, 72312200, 72313000, 72314000, 72315100, 72316000, 72317000, 72319000, 72320000, 72321000, 72510000, 72511000, 72511110, 72512000, 72514000, 72514100, 72514200, 72514300, 72520000, 72521000, 72521100, 72540000, 72541000, 72541100, 72550000, 72560000, 72570000, 72580000, 72590000, 72591000 |
| 8 | Research and development services ⁴⁹ | 85 | 63368000, 73000000, 73100000, 73110000, 73111000, 73112000 |
| 9 | Accounting, auditing and bookkeeping services | 862 | 74121000, 74121100, 74121110, 74121112, 74121113, 74121120, 74121200, 74121210, 74121220, 74121230, 74121240, 74121250, 74541000 |
| 10 | Market research and public opinion polling services | 864 | 74130000, 74131000, 74131100, 74131110, 74131120, 74131121, 74131130, 74131200, 74131300, 74131400, 74131500, 74131600, 74132000, 74133000, 74423100, 74423110 |
| 11 | Management consulting services ⁵⁰ and related services | 865, 866 | 73200000, 73210000, 73220000, 73300000, 74121111, 74141000, 74141100, 74141110, 74141200, 74141300, 74141400, 74141500, 74141510, 74141600, 74141610, |

⁴⁹ Except research and development services other than those where the benefits accrue exclusively to the contracting authority for its use in the conduct of its own affairs on condition that the service provided is wholly remunerated by the contracting authority.

⁵⁰ Except arbitration and conciliation services.

| | | | |
|----|--|---------------------|--|
| | | | 74141620 74141700, 74141800, 74141900, 74142200, 74150000, 74871000, 90311000, 93620000, |
| 12 | Architectural services; engineering services and integrated engineering services; urban planning and landscape engineering services; related scientific and technical consulting services; technical testing and analysis services | 867 | 72242000, 72244000, 74142300, 74142310, 74220000, 74221000, 74222000, 74223000, 74224000, 74225000, 74225100, 74230000, 74231100, 74231110, 74231120, 74231130, 74231200, 74231300, 74231310, 74231320, 74231400, 74231500, 74231510, 74231520, 74231521, 74231530, 74231540, 74231600, 74231700, 74231710, 74231720, 74231721, 74231800, 74231900, 74232000, 74232100, 74232110, 74232120, 74232200, 74232210, 74232220, 74232230, 74232240, 74232300, 74232310, 74232320, 74232400, 74232500, 74232600, 74233000, 74233100, 74233200, 74233300, 74233400, 74233500, 74233600, 74233700, 74240000, 74250000, 74251000, 74252000, 74252100, 74260000, 74261000, 74262000, 74262100, 74263000, 74270000, 74271000, 74271100, 74271200, 74271210, 74271220, 74271300, 74271400, 74271500, 74271700, 74271710, 74271720, 74271800, 74272000, 74272100, 74272110, 74272111, 74272112, 74272113, 74272300, 74273000, 74273100, 74273200, 74274000, 74274100, 74274200, 74274300, 74274400, 74274500, 74275000, 74275100, 74275200, 74276000, 74276100, 74276200, 74276300, 74276400, 74300000, 74310000, 74311000, 74312000, 74312100, 74313000, 74313100, 74313110, 74313120, 74313130, 74313140, 74313141, 74313142, 74313143, 74313144, 74313145, 74313146, 74313147, 74313200, 74313210, 74313220, 74874000 |
| 13 | Advertising services | 871 | 74410000, 74411000, 74412000, 78225000 |
| 14 | Building-cleaning services and property management services | 874, 82201 to 82206 | 70300000, 70310000, 70311000, 70320000, 70321000, 70322000, 70330000, 70331000, 70331100, 70332000, 70332100, 70332200, 70332300, 74710000, 74720000, 74721000, 74721100, 74721210, 74721300, 74722000, 74724000, 74730000, 74731000, 74744000, |

| | | | |
|----|--|-------|--|
| | | | 74750000, 74760000, 93411200, 93411300, 93411400 |
| 15 | Publishing and printing services on a fee or contract basis | 88442 | 74831530, 78000000, 78100000, 78110000, 78111000, 78112000, 78113000, 78113100, 78114000, 78114100, 78114200, 78114300, 78114400, 78115000, 78115100, 78116000, 78117000, 78118000, 78119000, 78120000, 78121000, 78122000, 78122100, 78123000, 78124000, 78125000, 78130000, 78131000, 78132000, 78133000, 78134000, 78135000, 78135100, 78136000, 78140000, 78141000, 78142000, 78150000, 78151000, 78152000, 78153000, 78160000, 78170000, 78180000, 78200000, 78210000, 78220000, 78221000, 78222000, 78223000, 78224000, 78230000, 78240000, 78300000, 78310000, 78311000, 78312000 |
| 16 | Sewage and refuse disposal services; sanitation and similar services | 94 | 71221110, 74734000, 74735000, 85142200, 90000000, 90100000, 90110000, 90111000, 90111100, 90111200, 90111300, 90112000, 90112100, 90112200, 90112210, 90112300, 90113000, 90114000, 90120000, 90121000, 90121100, 90121110, 90121120, 90121130, 90121140, 90121200, 90121300, 90121310, 90121320, 90121330, 90121340, 90121400, 90122000, 90122100, 90122110, 90122111, 90122112, 90122113, 90122120, 90122121, 90122122, 90122123, 90122124, 90122130, 90122131, 90122200, 90122210, 90122220, 90122230, 90122240, 90122300, 90122310, 90122320, 90122330, 90122340, 90200000, 90210000, 90211000, 90212000, 90213000, 90220000, 90221000, 90240000, 90300000, 90310000, 90312000, 90313000, 90313100, 90313110, 90313120, 90314000, 90315000, 90315100, 90315200, 90315300, 90320000 |

ANNEX II B

| Category No | Subject | CPC Reference No | CPV Reference No |
|-------------|---|------------------|--|
| 17 | Hotel and restaurant services | 64 | 55000000, 55100000, 55200000, 55210000, 55220000, 55221000, 55240000, 55241000, 55242000, 55243000, 55250000, 55260000, 55270000, 55300000, 55310000, 55311000, 55312000, 55320000, 55321000, 55322000, 55330000, 55400000, 55410000, 55500000, 55510000, 55511000, 55512000, 55520000, 55521000, 55521100, 55522000, 55523000, 55523100, 55524000, 93410000, 93411000 |
| 18 | Rail transport services | 711 | 60111000, 60121000, 60121100, 60121200, 60121300, 60121400, 60121500, 60121600 |
| 19 | Water transport services | 72 | 61000000, 61100000, 61110000, 61200000, 61210000, 61220000, 61230000, 61240000, 61250000, 61400000, 63370000, 63371000, 63372000, 71221120, 71221130 |
| 20 | Supporting and auxiliary transport services | 74 | 62224000, 62224100, 62226000, 63000000, 63100000, 63110000, 63111000, 63112000, 63112100, 63112110, 63120000, 63121000, 63121100, 63121110, 63122000, 63200000, 63210000, 63220000, 63221000, 63222000, 63222100, 63223000, 63223100, 63223110, 63223200, 63223210, 63224000, 63225000, 63226000, 63300000, 63310000, 63311000, 63313000, 63314000, 63315000, 63320000, 63330000, 63340000, 63341000, 63341100, 63342000, 63343000, 63343100, 63344000, 63350000, 63351000, 63352000, 63353000, 63360000, 63361000, 63362000, 63363000, 63364000, 63365000, 63366000, 63366100, 63369000, 63400000, 63410000, 63420000, 63430000, 63500000, 63510000, 63511000, 63512000, 63514000, 63515000, 63516000, 63520000, 63521000, 63522000, 63523000, 63524000, 63600000, 71221140, 74322000, 93600000 |

| | | | |
|----|---|--------------------|--|
| 21 | Legal services | 861 | 74110000, 74111000, 74111100, 74111200, 74112000, 74112100, 74112110, 74113000, 74113100, 74113200, 74113210, 74114000 |
| 22 | Personnel placement and supply services ⁵¹ | 872 | 74512000, 74522000, 95100000, 95110000, 95120000, 95130000, 95131000, 95132000, 95133000 |
| 23 | Investigation and security services, except armoured car services | 873 (except 87304) | 74611000, 74613000, 74614000, 74614100, 74614110, 74615000, 74620000 |
| 24 | Education and vocational education services | 92 | 80000000, 80100000, 80110000, 80200000, 80210000, 80211000, 80212000, 80220000, 80300000, 80310000, 80320000, 80330000, 80340000, 80400000, 80411000, 80411100, 80411200, 80412000, 80421000, 80422000, 80422100, 80423000, 80423100, 80423110, 80423120, 80423200, 80423300, 80423320, 80424000, 80425000, 80426000, 80426100, 80426200, 80427000, 80428000, 80430000, 92312212, 92312213 |
| 25 | Health and social services | 93 | 60113300, 74511000, 85000000, 85100000, 85110000, 85111000, 85111100, 85111200, 85111300, 85111320, 85111400, 85111500, 85111600, 85111700, 85111800, 85112000, 85112100, 85120000, 85121000, 85121100, 85121200, 85121300, 85130000, 85131000, 85131100, 85131110, 85140000, 85141000, 85141100, 85141200, 85141210, 85141211, 85141212, 85141220, 85142000, 85142100, 85142200, 85142300, 85142400, 85143000, 85144000, 85144100, 85145000, 85146000, 85146100, 85146200, 85147000, 85148000, 85149000, 85200000, 85300000, 85310000, 85311000, 85311100, 85311200, 85311300, 85312000, 85312100, 85312200, 85312300, 85312310, 85312320, 85312330, 85312400, 85320000, 85323000 |
| 26 | Recreational, cultural and sporting services | 96 | 74875000, 74875100, 74875200, 77310000, 77311000, 77313000, |

⁵¹ Except employment contracts.

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | 77400000, 80413000, 80414000, 80415000, 92000000, 92100000, 92110000, 92111000, 92111100, 92111200, 92111210, 92111220, 92111230, 92111240, 92111250, 92111260, 92111300, 92111310, 92111320, 92112000, 92120000, 92121000, 92122000, 92130000, 92140000, 92200000, 92210000, 92211000, 92220000, 92221000, 92300000, 92310000, 92311000, 92312000, 92312100, 92312110, 92312120, 92312130, 92312140, 92312200, 92312210, 92312220, 92312230, 92312240, 92312250, 92320000, 92330000, 92331000, 92331100, 92331200, 92332000, 92340000, 92341000, 92342000, 92342100, 92342200, 92350000, 92351000, 92351100, 92351200, 92352000, 92352100, 92352200, 92360000, 92400000, 92500000, 92510000, 92511000, 92512000, 92520000, 92521000, 92521100, 92521200, 92521210, 92521220, 92522000, 92522100, 92522200, 92530000, 92531000, 92532000, 92533000, 92534000, 92600000, 92610000, 92620000, 92621000, 92622000 |
| 27 | Other services ⁵² | | 50111100, 50232110, 50246500, 50520000, 50521000, 50522000, 50523000, 50531500, 50531510, 50700000, 50710000, 50711000, 50712000, 50720000, 50730000, 50731000, 50732000, 50732100, 50740000, 50760000, 50761000, 50762000, 50911230, 50912200, 50913200, 50915000, 50915100, 50915200, 50952300, 50977000, 52000000, 52100000, 52200000, 52300000, 52400000, 52500000, 52600000, 52700000, 52800000, 52900000, 60113200, 60200000, 60210000, 60220000, 61300000, 62221000, 62222000, 62223000, 63367000, 64110000, 64111000, 64112000, 64113000, 64114000, 64115000, 64116000, 64214100, 64214400, 65000000, 65100000, 65110000, 65120000, 65130000, 65200000, 65210000, 65300000, 65310000, 65320000, 65400000, |

⁵² Except contracts for the acquisition, development, production or co-production of programmes by broadcasting organisations and contracts for broadcasting time.

65410000, 65500000, 67100000,
67110000, 67120000, 67121000,
67122000, 67130000, 67140000,
67300000, 70100000, 70110000,
70111000, 70112000, 70120000,
70121000, 70121100, 70121200,
70122000, 70122100, 70122110,
70122200, 70122210, 70123000,
70123100, 70123200, 70130000,
70311100, 70311200, 70333000,
71000000, 71100000, 71110000,
71120000, 71130000, 71140000,
71150000, 71160000, 71170000,
71180000, 71181000, 71211300,
71211310, 71211320, 71211400,
71211600, 71211900, 71300000,
71310000, 71311000, 71320000,
71321000, 71321100, 71321200,
71321300, 71321400, 71330000,
71331000, 71332000, 71332100,
71332200, 71333000, 71340000,
71350000, 71360000, 71380000,
74122000, 74122100, 74122200,
74271600, 74271900, 74321000,
74321100, 74420000, 74421000,
74422000, 74423000, 74423200,
74423210, 74542000, 74543000,
74731100, 74810000, 74811000,
74811100, 74811200, 74811300,
74811310, 74811320, 74811330,
74811340, 74812000, 74813000,
74820000, 74821000, 74830000,
74831000, 74831100, 74831110,
74831200, 74831210, 74831300,
74831400, 74831500, 74831510,
74831520, 74831600, 74832000,
74832100, 74841000, 74842000,
74844000, 74850000, 74851000,
74860000, 74861000, 74870000,
74872000, 74873100, 74876000,
74877000, 75000000, 75100000,
75110000, 75111000, 75111100,
75111200, 75112000, 75112100,
75120000, 75121000, 75122000,
75123000, 75124000, 75125000,
75130000, 75131000, 75131100,
75200000, 75210000, 75211000,
75211100, 75211110, 75211200,
75211300, 75220000, 75221000,
75222000, 75230000, 75231000,
75231100, 75231200, 75231210,
75231220, 75231230, 75231240,
75240000, 75241000, 75241100,
75242000, 75242100, 75242110,
75250000, 75251000, 75251100,
75251110, 75251120, 75252000,
75300000, 75310000, 75311000,

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | 75312000, 75313000, 75313100, 75314000, 75320000, 75330000, 75340000, 76000000, 76100000, 76110000, 76111000, 76120000, 76200000, 76210000, 76211000, 76211100, 76211200, 76300000, 76310000, 76320000, 76330000, 76340000, 76400000, 76410000, 76411000, 76420000, 76430000, 76431000, 76440000, 76450000, 76460000, 76470000, 76480000, 76490000, 76491000, 76492000, 76500000, 76510000, 76520000, 76521000, 76522000, 76530000, 76531000, 77000000, 77100000, 77110000, 77120000, 77210000, 77211000, 77211100, 77211300, 77220000, 77230000, 77330000, 77500000, 77510000, 77600000, 77610000, 77700000, 78400000, 85321000, 85322000, 90114100, 90115000, 90122132, 90123000, 90123100, 90123200, 90123300, 90230000, 91000000, 91100000, 91110000, 91120000, 91130000, 91131000, 91200000, 91300000, 91310000, 91320000, 91330000, 91331000, 91331100, 92230000, 92312211, 93100000, 93110000, 93111000, 93112000, 93120000, 93121000, 93130000, 93140000, 93150000, 93160000, 93200000, 93210000, 93211000, 93220000, 93221000, 93221100, 93221200, 93221300, 93300000, 93310000, 93320000, 93330000, 93411100, 93500000, 93510000, 93511000, 93511100, 93621000, 93700000, 93710000, 93711000, 93711100, 93711110, 93711200, 93712000, 93910000, 93930000, 93940000, 93950000, 95000000, 99000000, 99100000 |
|--|--|--|

ANNEX VI

DEFINITION OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

For the purposes of this Directive:

1. (a) "technical specification", in the case of public service or supply contracts, means a specification in a document defining the required characteristics of a product or a service, such as quality levels, environmental performance levels, design for all requirements (including accessibility for disabled persons) and conformity assessment, performance, use of the product, safety or dimensions, including requirements relevant to the product as regards the name under which the product is sold, terminology, symbols, testing and test methods, packaging, marking and labelling, user instructions, production processes and methods and conformity assessment procedures;
 - (b) "technical specification", in the case of public works contracts, means the totality of the technical prescriptions contained in particular in the tender documents, defining the characteristics required of a material, product or supply, which permits a material, a product or a supply to be described in a manner such that it fulfils the use for which it is intended by the contracting authority. These characteristics shall include levels of environmental performance, design for all requirements (including accessibility for disabled persons) and conformity assessment, performance, safety or dimensions, including the procedures concerning quality assurance, terminology, symbols, testing and test methods, packaging, marking and labelling and production processes and methods. They shall also include rules relating to design and costing, the test, inspection and acceptance conditions for works and methods or techniques of construction and all other technical conditions which the contracting authority is in a position to prescribe, under general or specific regulations, in relation to the finished works and to the materials or parts which they involve;
2. "standard" means a technical specification approved by a recognised standardising body for repeated or continuous application, compliance with which is not compulsory and which falls into one of the following categories:
 - international standard: a standard adopted by an international standards organisation and made available to the general public,
 - European standard: a standard adopted by a European standards organisation and made available to the general public,
 - national standard: a standard adopted by a national standards organisation and made available to the general public;
 3. "European technical approval" means a favourable technical assessment of the fitness for use of a product for a particular purpose, based on fulfilment of the essential requirements for building works, by means of the inherent characteristics of the product and the defined conditions of application and use. European technical approval is issued by an approval body designated for this purpose by the Member State;

4. "Common technical specification" means a technical specification laid down in accordance with a procedure recognised by the Member States which has been published in the Official Journal of the European Communities;
 5. "technical reference": any product produced by European standardisation bodies, other than official standards, according to procedures adopted for the development of market needs.
-

ANNEX VII A
INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN PUBLIC CONTRACT NOTICES

NOTICE OF THE PUBLICATION OF A PRIOR INFORMATION NOTICE ON A BUYER PROFILE

1. Country of the contracting authority
2. Name of the contracting authority
3. Internet address of the "buyer profile" (URL)
4. CPV Nomenclature reference No(s)

PRIOR INFORMATION NOTICE

1. The name, address, fax number, email address of the contracting authority and, if different, of the service from which additional information may be obtained.
2. In the case of public works contracts: the nature and extent of the works and the place of execution; if the work is to be subdivided into several lots, the essential characteristics of those lots by reference to the work; if available, an estimate of the range of the cost of the proposed works; Nomenclature reference No(s).

In the case of public supply contracts: the nature and quantity or value of the products to be supplied, Nomenclature reference No(s); Nomenclature reference No(s).

In the case of public services contracts: the total value of the proposed purchases in each of the service categories in Annex IIA; Nomenclature reference No(s).

3. Estimated date for initiating the award procedures in respect of the contract or contracts, in the case of public service contracts by category.
4. Where appropriate, indicate whether a framework agreement.
5. Where appropriate, other information.
6. Date of dispatch of the notice or of dispatch of the notice of the publication of the prior information notice on the buyer profile.
7. Indicate whether the contract is covered by the Agreement (GPA).

CONTRACT NOTICES

Open and restricted procedures, competitive dialogues, negotiated procedures:

1. Name, address, telephone and fax number, email address of the contracting authority.
2.
 - (a) The award procedure chosen.
 - (b) Where appropriate, reasons for use of the accelerated procedure (in restricted and negotiated procedures).
 - (c) Where appropriate, indicate whether a framework agreement.
 - (ca) Where appropriate, indicate whether a dynamic purchasing system.
 - (d) Where appropriate, holding of an electronic auction (in the event of open, restricted or negotiated procedures, in the situation covered by Article 29(1)(a)).
3. Form of the contract.
4. Place of execution/performance of the works, for delivery of products or of the provision of services.
5.
 - (a) Public works contracts:
 - Nature and extent of the works and general nature of the work. Indication in particular of options concerning supplementary works, and, if known, the provisional timetable for exercise of these options as well as the number of renewals, if any. If the work or the contract is subdivided into several lots, the size of the different lots; Nomenclature reference number(s).
 - Information concerning the purpose of the work or the contract where the latter also involves the drawing up of projects.
 - In the event of a framework agreement, indication also of the planned duration of the agreement, the estimated total value of the works for the entire duration of the framework agreement and, as far as possible, the value and the frequency of the contracts to be awarded.

(b) Public supply contracts:

Nature of the products to be supplied, indicating in particular whether tenders are requested with a view to purchase, lease rental, hire or hire purchase or a combination of these, nomenclature reference number. Quantity of products to be supplied, indicating in particular options concerning supplementary purchases and, if known, the provisional timetable for recourse to these options as well as the number of renewals, if any. Nomenclature reference number(s).

In the case of regular or renewable contracts during the course of a given period, indicate also, if known, the timetable for subsequent contracts for purchase of intended supplies.

In the event of a framework agreement, indication also of the planned duration of the agreement, the estimated total value of the supplies for the entire duration of the framework agreement and, as far as possible, the value and the frequency of the contracts to be awarded.

(c) Public service contracts:

- Category and description of service. Nomenclature reference number(s). Quantity of services to be provided. Indicate in particular options concerning supplementary purchases and, if known, the provisional timetable for recourse to these options as well as the number of renewals, if any. In the case of renewable contracts over a given period, an estimate of the time frame, if known, for subsequent public contracts for purchase of intended services.

In the event of a framework agreement, indication also of the planned duration of the agreement, the estimated total value of the services for the entire duration of the framework agreement and, as far as possible, the value and the frequency of the contracts to be awarded.

- Indication of whether the execution of the service is reserved by law, regulation or administrative provision to a particular profession.

Reference to the law, regulation or administrative provision.

Indication of whether legal persons should indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff to be responsible for the execution of the service.

6. If the contracts are subdivided into lots indication of the possibility of tendering for one, for several or for all the lots.

7. Any time limit for completion of supplies/services/works or duration of the supply/services/works contract; where possible any time limit by which delivery of supplies or services will begin or be completed, or where possible, time limit by which works will begin.
9. Admission or prohibition of variants.
10. Where applicable particular conditions to which the performance of the contract is subject.
11. In the case of open procedures:
 - (a) Name, address, telephone and telefax number and electronic address of the service from which contract documents and additional documents can be requested;
 - (b) Where appropriate, time limit for presentation of such requests;
 - (c) Where appropriate, cost of and payment conditions for obtaining these documents.
12.
 - (a) Time limit for receipt of tenders or indicative tenders where a dynamic purchasingsystem is introduced (open procedures);
 - (b) Time limit for receipt of request to participate (restricted and negotiated procedures);
 - (c) Address where these have to be transmitted;
 - (d) The language or languages in which they must be drawn up.
13. In the case of open procedures:
 - (a) persons authorised to be present at the opening of tenders;
 - (b) date, time and place for such opening.
14. Where appropriate any deposit and guarantees required.
15. Main terms concerning financing and payment and/or references to the provisions in which these are contained.
16. Where applicable, the legal form to be taken by the grouping of economic operators to whom the contract is to be awarded.

17. Selection criteria regarding the personal situation of economic operators that may lead to their exclusion, and required information proving that they do not fall within the cases justifying exclusion. Selection criteria and information concerning the economic operators' personal situation, information and any necessary formalities for assessment of the minimum economic and technical standards required of the economic operator. Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required.
18. Where there is a framework agreement: the number and, where appropriate, proposed maximum number of economic operators who will be members of it, the duration of the agreement provided for, stating, if appropriate, the reasons for any duration exceeding three years.
19. In the case of a competitive dialogue or a negotiated procedure with the publication of a contract notice, indicate, if appropriate, recourse to a staged procedure in order gradually to reduce the number of solutions to be discussed or tenders to be negotiated.
20. In the case of a restricted procedure, a competitive dialogue or a negotiated procedure with the publication of a contract notice, when recourse is had to the option of reducing the number of candidates to be invited to submit tenders, to engage in dialogue or to negotiate: minimum and, if appropriate, proposed maximum number of candidates and objective criteria to be used to choose that number of candidates.
21. Time frame during which the tenderer must maintain its tender (open procedures).
22. Where appropriate, names and addresses of economic operators already selected by the contracting authority (negotiated procedures).
23. Criteria referred to in Article 53 to be used for award of the contract: "lowest price" or "most economically advantageous tender". Criteria representing the most economically advantageous tender as well as their weighting shall be mentioned where they do not appear in the specifications or, in the event of a competitive dialogue, in the descriptive document.
- 23a. Name and address of the body responsible for appeal and, where appropriate, mediation procedures. Precise information concerning deadlines for lodging appeals.
24. Date(s) of publication of the prior information notice in accordance with the technical specifications of publication indicated in Annex VIII or statement that no such publication made.
25. Date of dispatch of the notice.
26. Indicate whether the contract is covered by the Agreement (GPA).

SIMPLIFIED CONTRACT NOTICE FOR USE IN A DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM

1. Country of contracting authority.
2. Name and e-mail address of contracting authority.
3. Publication reference of the contract notice on the dynamic purchasing system.
4. E-mail address at which the specification and additional documents relating to the dynamic purchasing system are available
5. Subject of contract: description by reference number(s) of CPV nomenclature and quantity or extent of the contract to be awarded.
6. Timeframe for submitting indicative tenders.

CONTRACT AWARD NOTICES

1. Name and address of the contracting authority.
2. Award procedures chosen. In the case of negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice, justification (Article 28).
3. Public supply contracts: nature and quantity of products supplied, where appropriate, by the supplier; nomenclature reference number.

Public service contracts: category and description of the service; nomenclature reference number; quantity of services bought.

Public works contracts: nature and extent of provision, general characteristics of the work.

4. Date of contract award.
5. Contract award criteria.
6. Number of tenders received.
7. Name and address of the successful economic operators.
8. Price or range of prices (minimum/maximum) paid.
9. Value of the tender (tenders) retained or the highest tender and lowest tender taken into consideration for the contract award.
10. Where appropriate, value and proportion of contract likely to be subcontracted to third parties.
11. Date of publication of the tender notice in accordance with the technical specifications for publication in Annex VIII.
12. Date of dispatch of the notice.
- 12a. Name and address of the body responsible for appeal and, where appropriate, mediation procedures. Precise information concerning the deadline for lodging appeals.

ANNEX VII B

INFORMATION WHICH MUST APPEAR IN PUBLIC WORKS CONCESSIONS NOTICES

1. Name, address, fax number and email address of the contracting authority
2.
 - (a) Place of execution
 - (b) Subject of the concession; nature and extent of the services
3.
 - (a) Time limit for the submission of applications
 - (b) Address to which they must be sent
 - (c) Language(s) in which they must be written
4. Personal, technical and financial conditions to be met by the candidates
5. Criteria which will be applied in the award of the contract
6. If appropriate, the minimum proportion of the works which will be contracted out
7. Date of dispatch of the notice
8. Name and address of the body responsible for appeal and, where appropriate, mediation procedures. Precise information concerning the deadline for lodging appeals.

ANNEX VII C

INFORMATION WHICH MUST APPEAR IN NOTICES OF WORKS CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE CONCESSIONNAIRE

1. (a) Place of execution
(b) Nature and extent of the services, general characteristics of the works
2. Any time limit for completion imposed
3. Name and address of the body from whom the specifications and the additional documents may be requested
4. (a) Time limit for the receipt of applications to participate and/or the receipt of tenders
(b) Address to which they must be sent
(c) Language(s) in which they must be written
5. Any deposits or guarantees required
6. Economic and technical conditions to be met by the contractor
7. Criteria which will be applied in the award of the contract
8. Date of dispatch of the notice

ANNEX VII D

INFORMATION WHICH MUST APPEAR IN SERVICE CONTEST NOTICES

CONTEST NOTICES

1. Name, address, fax number and email address of the contracting authority and those of the department from which the additional documents may be obtained
2. Description of the project
3. Type of contest: open or restricted
4. In the event of an open contest: time limit for the submission of projects
5. In the event of a restricted contest:
 - (a) number of participants contemplated
 - (b) names of the participants already selected, if any
 - (c) criteria for the selection of participants
 - (d) time limit for applications to participate
6. If appropriate, indicate that the participation is restricted to a specified profession
7. Criteria which will be applied in the evaluation of the projects
8. Names of any members of the jury who have already been selected
9. Indicate whether the jury's decision is binding on the contracting authority
10. Number and value of any prizes
11. Payments to be made to all participants, if any
12. Indicate whether any contracts following the contest will or will not be awarded to the winner or winners of the contest
13. Date of dispatch of the notice

NOTICE OF THE RESULTS OF A CONTEST

1. Name, address, fax number and email address of the contracting authority
2. Description of the project
3. Total number of participants
4. Number of foreign participants
5. Winner(s) of the contest
6. Any prizes
7. Reference of the contest notice
8. Date of dispatch of the notice

ANNEX VIII

FEATURES CONCERNING PUBLICATION

1. Publication of notices

- (a) Notices referred to in Articles 34, 59, 66 and 72 are sent by the contracting authorities to the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in the format required by Commission Directive 2001/.../EC on the use of standard forms for the publication of notices (replacing Annex IV to Directive 93/63/EEC, Annexes IV, V and VI to Directive 93/37/EEC, Annexes III and IV to Directive 92/50/EEC, as amended by Directive 97/52/EC, and also Annexes XII to XV, XVII and XVIII to Directive 93/38/EEC, as amended by Directive 98/4/EC). The prior information notices referred to in Article 34(1), first subparagraph, published on a buyer profile as described in paragraph 2(b), must also use that format, as must the notice of such publication.
- (b) Notices referred to in Articles 34, 59, 66 and 72 are published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities or by the contracting authorities in the event of a prior information notice published on a buyer profile in accordance with Article 34(1), first paragraph.

In addition, contracting authorities may publish this information on the Internet on a "buyer profile" as referred to in paragraph 2(b).

- (c) The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities will give the contracting authority the confirmation referred to in Article 35(8).

2. Publication of complementary or additional information.

- (a) Contracting authorities are encouraged to publish the specifications and the additional documents in their entirety on the Internet.
- (b) The buyer profile may include prior information notices as referred to in Article 34(1), first paragraph, information on ongoing invitations to tender, scheduled purchases, contracts concluded, procedures cancelled and any useful general information, such as a contact point, a telephone and a fax number, a postal address and an e-mail address.

3. Format and modalities for sending notices electronically

The format and procedure for sending notices electronically are accessible at the Internet address "<http://simap.eu.int>".

ANNEX X

REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO EQUIPMENT FOR THE ELECTRONIC RECEIPT OF TENDERS, REQUESTS FOR PARTICIPATION AND PLANS AND PROJECTS IN CONTESTS

1. Equipment for the electronic receipt of tenders, requests for participation and plans and projects in contests must at least guarantee, through technical means and appropriate procedures, that:
 - (a) electronic signatures relating to tenders, requests for participation and the forwarding of plans and projects comply with national provisions adopted pursuant to Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁵³;
 - (b) the exact time and date of the receipt of tenders, applications to participate and the submission plans and projects can be determined precisely;
 - (c) it may be reasonably ensured that, before the time limits laid down, no-one can have access to data transmitted under these requirements;
 - (d) if that access prohibition is infringed, it may be reasonably ensured that the infringement is clearly detectable;
 - (e) only authorised persons may set or change the dates for opening data received;
 - (f) during the different stages of the contract award procedure or of the contest access to all data submitted, or to part thereof, must be possible only through simultaneous action by authorised persons;
 - (g) simultaneous action by authorised persons must give access to data transmitted only after the prescribed date;
 - (h) data received and opened in accordance with these requirements must remain accessible only to persons authorised to acquaint themselves therewith.

⁵³ Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Community framework for electronic signatures (OJ L 13, 19.1.2000, p. 12).

ANNEX XI
DEADLINES FOR TRANSPOSITION
(Article 80)

ANNEX XII
CORRELATION TABLE
