European Economic and Social Committee

Public Procurement Act

What the Commission plans.
What it means for engineers.

Martin Boehme
Rapporteur, EESC, Group III
7 November 2026



The EESC in three facts

329 members from all 27 Member States

3 Groups: employers, workers, civil society

1957 created by the Rome Treaties



We advise Parliament, Council and Commission.

My role: rapporteur



- writes the first draft of the opinion
- builds a compromise between the Groups
- presents the opinion to the Committee

THREE RAPPORTEURS FOR PPA

Isabel Yglesias Group I	**Dirk Bergrath** Group II	**Martin Böhme** Group III



The Commission plan in short

260+
articles in one single Regulation

3
procedures: open, dynamic, innovation

30%
minimum weight for quality

European preference

Option to favour EU suppliers

Fully digital

One system, evidence used once

SME support

Lots, simpler selection, fast payment

The good news for engineers

- Turnover limit: 50% of contract value
- Public references only if justified
- Digital proof: use once, use again
- BIM with open, interoperable formats
- Training for public buyers



Quality must come first

IN THE PROPOSAL		IN OUR DRAFT OPINION
30% quality, but life-cycle cost can count.	→	Quality first. Life-cycle cost is not quality.
Design contests: no own chapter any more.	→	Keep contests as a separate tool, with fair pay.
Very low offers: no clear test.	→	Cost benchmarks. No minimum prices.

A cheap design can make an expensive building.

Procedures must be fair

IN THE PROPOSAL		IN OUR DRAFT OPINION
Firms must send a first offer with their interest.	→	Proportionate tenders. Fewer rounds for small firms.
Negotiation is only optional.	→	Negotiation is standard for intellectual services.
No rule to pay for design work in tenders.	→	Substantive work is paid. Ideas stay protected.
Lots: buyers only have to consider them.	→	Right-sized lots. Independent design stays possible.

Four political questions

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Regulation or Directive?

Will a Regulation really cut fragmentation? We ask to compare.

European preference

Only for proven security risks. Never national preference.

Delegated acts

Too many. Key choices belong in the law itself.

Thresholds

Unchanged for 20+ years in nominal terms. Review needed.

What it could mean for us

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Good case

- Less paperwork
- Team experience counts
- Direct access for small offices

Bad case

- Price pressure
- More free design work
- Big packages shut out small offices

Now

Parliament and Council negotiate

End of 2027

Commission aims for a deal

+ 2 years

Rules apply after entry into force

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Three messages

1. Quality before price.
2. Keep design contests. Pay fairly for real work.
3. Make your national voice heard. Now.

Thank you. Questions?

