



Workshop of the Commission for Economic Policy on  
**Implementing public procurement rules at local and regional level:  
challenges and opportunities**

European Committee of the Regions, 101 Rue Belliard, Brussels  
**15 May 2019, 11:00-13:00, room JDE 53**

The shift from traditional patterns of procurement towards an approach that regards public procurement as a strategic tool to deliver public policy objectives in innovation, environment protection and social inclusion makes public procurement a key building block of EU's policies aimed to stimulate growth and remove barriers to investment.

The workshop will be an opportunity to look into whether relevant authorities are making full use of the possibilities offered by the EU public procurement rules; present best practices but also the most frequent sources of wrong application or of legal uncertainty and elaborate on ways to encourage a paradigm shift in the public sector towards more entrepreneurial and innovative approaches.

Key findings of the CoR study and of the survey carried out in cooperation with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) on the implementation of the public procurement Directives at regional and local levels will serve as an input to a panel debate on the opportunities and challenges of strategic procurement for local and regional authorities and on possible avenues for improving the implementation of the Directives on the ground. The debate will also feed into the CoR opinion on the implementation of the Directives.

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## **Draft Agenda**

- 10:00-10:30    **Registration**
- 11:00-11:10    **Welcome**  
**Thomas Habermann**, CoR rapporteur for the opinion on the implementation of the public procurement Directives
- 11:10-11:30    **Key findings of the ECON study on the implementation of the public procurement directives at regional and local levels**  
**Alessandro Valenza**, t33



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

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11:30-12:30 **Panel Debate**  
**Ensuring a wider uptake of strategic public procurement: opportunities and challenges for local and regional authorities**

*Chair* **Thomas Habermann**, CoR rapporteur for the opinion on the implementation of the public procurement Directives

*Panellists* **David Blanchard**, Head of Unit, European Commission, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Unit G4 Innovative and electronic procurement

**Tony Mortier**, Flemish Audit Authority, Interfederal Finance Inspectorate

**Juan Pedro Marín Arrese**, Chair of the Internal Market and Competition Task Force of CEEP - European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest

**Mark Hidson**, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

12:30-12:50 **Q&A**

12:50-13:00 **Closing remarks**

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