



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Health systems, medical products and innovation
Performance of national health systems

Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Drafting group meeting on Public procurement in healthcare systems (WebEx conference)

15 May 2020

Draft minutes

Brussels, 18 May 2020

1. Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting

The agenda was approved without changes as well as the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Nature of the meeting

The second drafting group meeting on public procurement in healthcare systems took place on 15 May 2020 via WebEx conference. The meeting, which was chaired by Luigi Siciliani, Chair of the drafting group, was a non-public meeting.

No declarations of interest that could in any way interfere with the topic discussed were submitted from any member.

3. List of points discussed

Feedback/comments on the draft opinion on the public procurement in healthcare systems

The Chair and rapporteurs gave a preview of the main elements added in the current draft and how specific sections of the opinion have been expanded.

Members raised several points, among others the need to expand the theme of innovation, especially in the technological field, to mention support of technological innovation by several EU initiatives. The exploitation of public procurement as stimulation of innovation and technological transfer was highlighted. Regarding innovation in procurement, some members suggested that E-procurement should be considered. Members stressed the need to take into consideration Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in public tenders and the ways to develop local economy. Specificities of procurement in primary care were mentioned and importance of accessibility and affordability of medicines was stressed.

Members further discussed the importance of sharing best practices across countries and from other sectors. They emphasised that simple and effective evaluation criteria in the tendering process are vital and sustainability and environmental aspects should not be overlooked. Small countries specifics should be taken into account as well. It was also suggested to make cross references to previous relevant Panel opinions.

On possible recommendations to be in the opinion the members mentioned the possibilities to develop fast track joint EU procurement procedure, to plan for future scenarios and prepare procurements in advance, including for emergency situation with possible direct purchases and local production.

On the use of the final opinion on public procurement by COM, COM confirmed that the opinion will support the work of DG SANTE. COM would welcome recommendations regarding EU cooperation as well as further EU level work that would be useful to be undertaken in view of ongoing public procurement related studies and the upcoming Health Programme. The opinion will be promoted to national and regional policy makers as well as in sub-groups of the European Parliament.

Planning and organisation of the work in the drafting group

Members agreed to send to rapporteurs their updated input in a week time so an updated draft could be circulated prior to the next meeting.

4. Conclusion

The Chair thanked everyone for active participation and valuable discussion to move forward with the opinion.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 10 June 2020 via WebEx conference.

6. List of participants

EXPH Members

AZZOPARDI MUSCAT Natasha (apologies)
DE MAESENEER Jan
GARCIA-ALTES Anna
GRUSON Damien
KRINGOS Dionne
LEHTONEN Lasse
LIONIS Christos
MCKEE Martin
MURAUŠKIENE Liubove
NUTI Sabina
PITA BARROS Pedro
ROGERS Heather-Lynn
SICILIANI Luigi
STAHL Dorothea
WIECZOROWSKA-TOBIS Katarzyna
ZACHAROV Sergej
ZALETEL Jelka

Research Fellow

van SCHALKWYK May

DG SANTE

DAJKA Bela

VAN DEN STEEN Dirk

VOLOSINOVA Viera