



Negotiations of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the European Union and Tunisia.

The EU proposal on public procurement for the DCFTA EU-Tunisia

FACTSHEET

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The present document aims at providing a general overview of the European Union's (EU) proposal for a Chapter on public procurement in the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) envisaged between the EU and Tunisia. The text of the EU proposal was presented to Tunisian experts in October 2015 and is now available on the website [link] of the European Commission.

Reasons for negotiating public procurement

Tendering for public contracts is about how public authorities spend taxpayers' money when buying goods, works or services. Tunisia is reforming its economy to improve transparency, efficiency, and fair competition. Rules ensuring public money is spent in a transparent, efficient, and non-discriminatory way are paramount for achieving these goals. In this context Tunisia has started modernising its procurement system with an objective to promote and institutionalise principles of a transparency, fairness and efficiency in order to improve its management of public expenditure.

The EU proposal provides an opportunity to bring Tunisian procurement procedures closer to EU and international standards, and to ensure that EU and Tunisian firms can bid for public tenders on equal terms.

Tunisia and the EU would agree the threshold level above which this opening would be ensured.

The opening of public procurement markets would bring new opportunities for businesses both in the EU and Tunisia.

For public authorities with tight budgets, it can bring:

- better value for money
- more choice
- greater economic efficiency
- good governance.

For companies it can:

- increase demand for their products or services
- create opportunities for growth
- safeguard existing jobs
- create new jobs.

Main goals

The EU proposal aims in particular to:

- integrate into the DCFTA selected provisions of the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) of the WTO directly by reference;
- agree on rules to maximise transparency in the publication of tenders for public contracts to ensure EU and Tunisian firms are aware of business opportunities that are open to them;
- maximise the opportunities for EU and Tunisian firms to participate in public tenders at all levels of government, whether central or sub-central, without facing discrimination.