



Press release

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European Conference on 21 October: Minister Altmaier and Commissioner Breton to boost efficient public procurement

The European Conference on Public Procurement is taking place today under the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The conference has been jointly organised by the European Commission and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and is being held as a virtual event. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier and EU Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton will lead the conference and discuss the role and importance of public procurement for boosting a sustainable and resilient European economy, especially in crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal Minister Altmaier said: "We must clear the way for public contracts! It is vital to ensure that specific investment projects in the context of the economic recovery can be implemented quickly and with as little bureaucracy as possible. However, we not only want to make the award procedures more efficient, but we also want to give new impetus to crisis management and towards a rapid economic recovery in order to set the course for a long-term sustainable recovery. In this context, public procurement can also make an important contribution to mitigating climate change".

In this context, Federal Minister Altmaier also stresses the importance of equal and fair competitive conditions in public procurement for European companies wishing to participate in tenders outside the EU.

In addition to the discussion between Minister Altmaier and Commissioner Breton, the conference will also include three expert panels which will discuss

- how public procurement can be made more efficient,
- how public procurement can contribute to ensuring a resilient European economy, and
- how to shape incentives for sustainable growth in the European Union by means of innovation in public procurement.

You can follow the conference via live stream from 12:15 p.m.:

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Livestream/High-Level-Conference-21-10-2020/videostream.html>