



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy

Improving public procurement in the Netherlands

*EUROPAL jubilee seminar:
Assessing European Union Better
Regulation*

Karsten Klein



Evaluation of the Procurement Act (2015)

- › SME participation
- › Interviews on experiences with public procurement
 - Problems related to application of Procurement Act
 - Entrepreneurs and contracting authorities have different views
- › Report on burdens related to procurement
 - Increase in burdens for contracting authorities
 - Decrease in administrative burdens for entrepreneurs, however:
 - Strongly dependent on type of procedure
 - Entrepreneurs report annoyances



Beter Aanbesteden (“Better procurement”)

- › Dialogue between contracting authorities and entrepreneurs
- › 5 regional teams and a national assembly
- › “Action agenda”:
 - 12 themes
 - 31 recommendations
 - 23 actions



Main findings

- > Problems stem mainly from lack of:
 - Awareness
 - Communication
- > Positioning of procurement within government organizations is key



Concrete problems

- › Transparency problems
- › Suitability requirements
- › Merging of contracts
- › Tender costs
- › The lack of market knowledge



Discussion: secondary aims

When carefully formulated, secondary aims could have a valuable role in public procurement.