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.