


## Report to the federal Parliament

### Evaluation of the Centralised Purchasing Policy at the Federal Level



The Belgian Court of Audit examined the objectives, monitoring and implementation of the centralised purchasing policy at the federal level and investigated the organisation established to help achieve the objectives and enhance the quality of the cooperation model introduced by the regulation.

It appears that three years after its implementation the new centralised purchasing policy hardly produces results in terms of effectiveness (budgetary savings) and efficiency (fewer individual purchasing procedures and federal purchasers). As a matter of fact, although the new policy has allowed to further centralise federal purchases, hence gradually increase the number of common contracts, the share of such purchases in total federal spending remains low. Common purchases were estimated at 7.8% of total government expenditure in 2020 and at 10.1% in 2021.

As for the implementation of the centralisation policy, the Court noted several limitations affecting the effectiveness of the cooperation model, such as poor multiannual planning and inefficient procedures for collecting needs by the parties involved. When it comes to organising common contracts, most of the so-called active parties merely join the system passively without taking the lead. Furthermore, the implementation of the new cooperation model does not directly or systematically reduce the risk of non-compliance with the legislation.

The Court made recommendations to the government and Parliament to improve the current organisation and the quality of the objectives, monitoring and evaluation of the policy.

The report *Centralising Federal Purchases – Evaluating Public Policy through Implementation of New Common Model of Cooperation* is available (in either French or Dutch) on [www.courtofaudit.be](http://www.courtofaudit.be).