

Report to the federal Parliament: Public procurement contracts in the federal government entities – regularity audits



In 2019 and 2020, the Belgian Court of Audit examined a selection of public procurement contracts awarded by Federal State departments or institutions for the purchase of goods, services or works. Moreover, it analysed how the construction project for the new NATO headquarters has been managed by the Belgian Ministry of Defence.

The Court noted that the departments and institutions under review have a fairly good mastery of public procurement regulations and carefully ensure that these regulations are complied with. Progress has been made in this respect since the Court's previous publications. Most of the contracts reviewed were documented in a correct and structured way. The Court also noted some improvement as regards the preparation and estimation of public contracts, the quality of the tender specification documents as well as the verification of the exclusion criteria.

However, the Court pointed out that a public procurement procedure sometimes happened to be neglected, that the statement of the grounds for the final decisions and the fulfilment of the disclosure obligation were often not sufficient, that the tenderers' criminal record has not always been checked and that the contract implementation rules were disregarded.

The Court made recommendations to the departments to promote compliance with the legal and regulatory provisions on public procurement and the internal control of their public contracts.