

Report to the Federal Parliament Public procurement in the federal administration



The Belgian Court of Audit examined in 2021 and 2022 a selection of public procurement contracts awarded by federal departments and organisations for purchasing goods, services or works. It also analysed how three federal departments have managed their long-term contracts and how public contracting for the modernisation and design of the railway station of Mons has been conducted.

The Court pointed out that the aforementioned departments and organisations showed a relatively good mastery of the public procurement regulations and also took care to ensure compliance with them. It noted an improvement in the qualitative selection of candidates or tenderers and the verification of the exclusion grounds.

However, the Court draws attention to the following points.

- The contracting authority sometimes neglected to start a procurement procedure for low-value contracts.
- The information provided on the decisions was often still insufficient.
- The contracting authority neglected to verify the tenderers' criminal records.
- Certain rules on the execution of the contract continued to be ignored.

The Court made a series of recommendations to the departments and organisations in order to promote compliance with the legal and regulatory provisions on public procurement contracts and concessions and to optimise the centralised purchasing model.