Modernisation and efficiency of the european and national rules on public procurement, Brussels, 21.6.2012

The Law on public procurement in the Region of Aragón



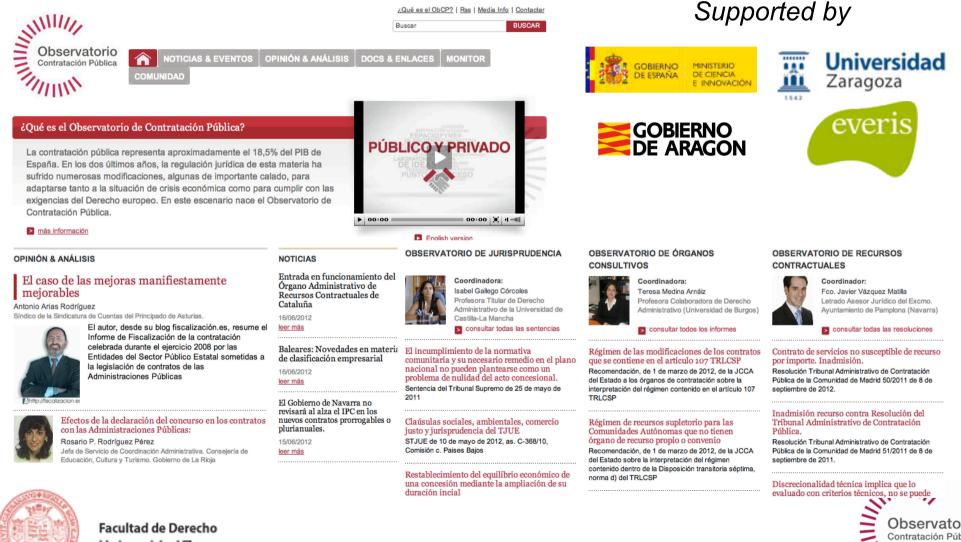
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Spanish Observatory on public procurement (www.obcp.es)



Universidad Zaragoza



Legal framework of public procurement in Spain

- Real Decreto Legislativo 3/2011, de 14 de noviembre, por el que se aprueba el Texto Refundido de la Ley de Contratos del Sector Público.

* transposition of Directive 2004/18, and 89/665/CEE - 92/13/CEE.

* includes the award of concessions and other public-private partnerships.

- Ley 31/2007, de 30 de octubre, sobre procedimientos de contratación en los sectores del agua, la energía, los transportes y los servicios postales.

* transposition of Directive 2004/17 (water, energy, transport and postal services).

- Ley 24/2011, de 1 de agosto, de contratos del sector público en los ámbitos de la defensa y de la seguridad.

* transposition of Directive 2009/81/CE (defence and security).





Simplifying the rules to increase efficiency in public procurement: the case of Aragón.

Legal framework: Ley 3/2011, de 24 de febrero, de medidas en materia de Contratos del Sector Público de Aragón (Law 3/2011 on public procurement of Aragón).

Subject (art.1):

1).- introduce measures to simplify procurement procedures, to ensure the efficient use of public funds, and 2).- creation of the Tribunal Administrativo de Contratos Públicos de Aragón (TACPA) (Administrative Tribunal of Public Procurement of Aragon)

includes:

- 1.- Measures to simplify the administrative burdens for bidders.
- 2.- Measures to simplify the award of contracts.
- 3.- Measures to increase integrity and transparency in the case of modification of the contract during their term.
- 4.- Measures to ensure an efficient remedies system even under the thresholds





Simplifying the administrative burdens for bidders in the preparation of the tenders

Proposal of Directive on public procurement (art. 57)

Contracting authorities **shall accept self-declarations** as preliminary evidence that candidates and tenderers fulfil the requested conditions of:

- No exclusion grounds (art. 55)
- Selection criteria (art. 56)

Law 3/2011 on public procurement of Aragón (art. 6)

...bidders **may** replace the documentation of compliance with the prerequisites for a self declaration signed, recognizing that meets the requirements of capacity, performance and reliability required, with compromise to accredit them if they are proposed as contractors

But only in negotiated and simplified open procedures, at the moment





estimated savings from the elimination of the acreditation of the legal ability to contract ...

45.435.000 € per year

estimated savings from the elimination of the acreditation of technical and professional ability ...

49.423.000 € per year

estimated savings from the elimination of the acreditation of previous experience (requirements of certificates) ...

58.601.000 € per year

Source: Analysis of the administrative burdens faced by Spanish firms, February, 2010.







Simplifying the administrative burdens in the preparation of the procedure

Law 3/2011 on public procurement of Aragón (art. 6.2) and *Proposal of Directive on public procuremen*t (art. 57.3)

Before awarding the contract, the contracting authority shall require only to the tenderer to which it has decided to award the contract to submit the documentation proving the fulfillment of the pre-requisites about legal ability, economic and financial standing, and technical and professional ability

estimated time savings from the requirement of documentation **only to one of the tenderers** ...

from 9 to 14 % of the processing time





Simplifying the procedures for contracts below the thresholds

"Simplified open procedure":

* supplies and service contracts < 150.000 € // public works contracts < 2.000.000 €

* notice only in the Region of Aragón website (<u>www.aragon.es</u> *Buyer profile* section, so not in Official Journals)

* Short time-limits for submission of tenders: min. 10 - max. 20 days.

* Possibility of use electronic auctions

* Tenderers may replace the documentation of compliance with the pre-requisites for a self declaration.

* Open procedure general rules also applicable







Measures in the field of the award of contracts

Contacts between contracting authorities and tenderers (art. 9 Law 3/2011)

If, after the tenders have been opened, some clarification is required in connection with a tender, or if obvious errors in the tender must be corrected, the contracting authority may contact the tenderer, although such contact may not lead to any alteration of the terms of the tender.

In every case where contact has been made, a 'note for the file' shall be drawn up.

Inspirated in art. 148 Commission Regulation 2342/2002 (implementation of Financional Regulation of the European Communities) and General Court 10 december 2009, T-195/08 (see also, more recently, Court of Justice 29 March 2012, C-599/10).





Compulsory e-notifications in public procurement procedures over the thresholds

Proposal of Directive on public procurement

imposes the switch to fully electronic communication in all procurement procedures within a **transition period of two years** (2016):

"...Member States shall ensure that, all procurement procedures under this Directive are performed using electronic means of communication ..."(art. 19.7)

Law 3/2011 on public procurement of Aragón

Notifications in the field of **contracts over the thresholds** will be carried out **exclusively** by electronic means (2nd Final Disposition Law 3/2011)





Integrity of public procurement: The case of modifications of contracts during their term.

Proposal of Directive on public procurement (art. 72)

Contracting authorities shall publish in the Official Journal of the European Union a notice on such modifications. Such notices shall contain the information set out in Annex VI part G and be published in accordance with Article 49.

Law 3/2011 on public procurement of Aragón (art. 12 bis)

The agreement of the contracting authority to amend a contract shall be **published in the same Official Journal and buyer profile** (on internet) that the publication of the award, containing the information about the scope and the amount, in order to ensure proper use of this power.

Therefore, this agreement will be **notified to all economic operators** who participated in the tender.



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Eficient remedies system... even under the thresholds

- "equivalent" remedies system even *under the thresholds* (art. 1.2 Directive 89/665/EEC, ammended by Directive 2007/66) :

Directive 2007/66: works > 5.000.000 € / services and supplies > 200.000 € Ley 3/2011 Aragon: works > 1.000.000 € / services and supplies > 100.000 € (because considerated as relevants for the internal market)

- independent body responsible for review procedures (administrative, not judicial)

Tribunal Administrativo de Contratos Públicos de Aragón

- possibility of suspension of the procedure for the award of a public contract

- arbitration system during performance phase.







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