



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 18 December 2012

**Closing conference for the EU-funded twinning project  
SUPPORT TO THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM  
(City Hall, MKC)**

Speech by  
H.E. Mr Aivo ORAV  
Head of EU Delegation

**Dear Deputy Prime Minister Mr Peshevski,  
Ambassador Ms Steinacker,  
Mr. Gunther-Splittgerber,  
Director Ms Bogeva Micovska  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to be here with you today to close the EU-funded twinning project: Support to the Public Procurement System.

Public procurement is an important aspect of the economy and affects a substantial share of world trade flows. It makes up a significant part of the country's economy, corresponding to 13% of the GDP last year.

Public procurement is good for the business as it increases competition. It is also good for consumers because it reduces prices and guarantees better quality of services. If used in a responsible manner, public procurement brings 'value for money' for the taxpayers. It also stimulates a competitive industry, creating jobs and sustainable economic growth.

Over the years, the EU has developed public procurement rules based on the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, and free and fair competition. But those rules do not offer a 'one-size-fits-all' framework for their correct, efficient and effective application. Therefore, it is a responsibility of each of the 27

member states to identify the best practices to implement these rules efficiently in their national legal systems.

This EU-funded twinning project between the Public Procurement Bureau and the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology offered the possibility to share the best practices developed by Germany. During the past 16 months the two administrations cooperated towards a more effective, transparent and accountable usage of the state budget.

The legislative areas requiring further alignment with the *acquis* were identified and the model documents in use were upgraded with anti-corruption guidelines for the public procurement procedures.

Contracting authorities were trained to implement public procurement procedures in a non-discriminatory manner and to promote private sector access.

The Public Procurement Bureau is now even more ready to manage the full implementation of e-procurement and to cope with the challenges of the EU procurement policy, by offering more opportunities for businesses and guaranteeing better value and higher quality services for the taxpayers. The ever-first national **Strategy for the Public Procurement System** was prepared by using the extensive and comprehensive German experience acquired from the procurement angle. The

Strategy puts the public procurement system in legal and economic dimensions, which in turn should help policy-makers to make better policy choices and to better coordinate the public procurement and use it more efficiently.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the end, allow me to remind that the EU is continuously recognising the steady path taken by the country in the area of public procurement. The recent Progress Reports of the European Commission only confirm this recognition. Of course, there is more work ahead in the accession process and the EU remains to provide guidance and support. I'm confident that this twinning experience was valuable for the Public Procurement Bureau and has made it even stronger to face up the challenges that the accession negotiations in the area of public procurement will bring. I wish you every success!

Thank you for your attention.