

Circular E-016
Brussels, 22 March 2021

To all UNI Europa Affiliates
To all Members of the UNI Europa Executive Committee

Update: Open letter to the European Commission: No public contracts for companies without collective agreements – Change Public Procurement Rules Now

Dear Colleagues,

Please find annexed the open letter that we sent to the Commission today.

99 UNI Europa affiliates from 29 countries signed it, further to the request in [Circular E-014](#) of 10 March 2021. The overwhelming support shows the importance of this issue across our sectors throughout Europe. It gives an important signal of trade union unity to the European Commission.

In the EU, public authorities spend around 14% of GDP (around EUR 2 trillion per year) on the purchase of services, works and supplies. Consequently, they cannot abdicate on their social responsibility. Changing the applicable public procurement rules at EU level is an effective means to strengthen collective bargaining coverage and thus raise wages and working conditions, especially for some of the lowest paid workers in the services sectors. Indeed, such a policy would create the framework for the EU and national governments to proactively promote collective bargaining.

For UNI Europa achieving this change is a key priority. We will follow-up with further activities until we achieve our objective, first of all in the context of the build-up to the 5th UNI Europa Conference at the end of April.

You can find our web article [here](#) and tweets [here](#). Please support our action by retweeting.

Best regards,



Oliver Roethig
Regional Secretary