

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED

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Interim Committee on Government Procurement

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QUESTIONNAIRE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Response by Sweden

The attached communication contains the replies from the delegation of Sweden to the questionnaire on Information Technology in Government Procurement contained in document GPA/IC/W/4/Rev.1, dated 16 September 1994.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Replies received from Sweden

In answering the Secretariat's questions on the use of information technology in public procurement we would like to point out that Sweden's legislation on public procurement is adapted to EC legislation.

On the general issue of information technology in public procurement it can be noted that a traditional hard-copy system of advertising will for the foreseeable future still be used. Small companies do not yet have the possibilities to take advantage of information technology. In larger corporations, search for business opportunities and decisions on public tendering is done at a high level in the company where newspaper-form of information is still preferred. Also, on-line communication is expensive.

1. Could delegations give a brief description of any steps taken or planned to introduce information technology (electronic commerce) into public procurement? If so, does this cover contracts which are covered under the Agreement presently in force, or under the newly-signed Agreement? At all levels of government? In the event that delegations are not considering introducing information technology into public procurement, could they explain the reasons?

Public procurement opportunities are advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union, which is also available electronically via the TED system. The obligation to advertise includes all levels of government. As an EEA country, Sweden participates in the work of the MD-12 group of the EC Commission. Sweden has no national data base.

2. What function(s) would information technology serve in such systems and who will be the users?

N/A

3. Could delegations describe the technical aspects of the systems in use or planned? In particular as regards infrastructure/hardware-software and its options/standards?

We refer to the TED system.

4. Could delegations describe any limitations affecting access to information available in a system? How wide is potential access to interested suppliers? What are the access possibilities for suppliers of other signatory countries? What possible obstacles to access might arise for suppliers in other signatory countries?

No limitations. Potential suppliers need a PC, a modem and a telephone line. The Federation of Swedish Industry is member of UNICE which is represented in the Commission-committee on public procurement.

5. Has any thought been given to the question of interaction between electronic tendering and the obligations concerning publication and time-limits imposed by the Agreement?

Yes, they are being met under the present system.

6. For those delegations who use a database which lists government procurement opportunities:

- (i) What is the name of this database?
- (ii) How long has the database been operational and how many suppliers use the database?
- (iii) Is a fee charged to suppliers using this system? If so, how much, and what is included in the fee?
- (iv) Can suppliers obtain tender documentation electronically? If so, how?
- (v) How is information on the database organized?
- (vi) Does the database offer any other features?
- (vii) What is the approximate number of procurement opportunities listed on the database annually?
- (viii) Is the system managed by the government or a private company?

As for 3.