



Irish Centre for European Law

Current Developments in Public Procurement Law

Friday 14 October 2011 from 9.45am – 4.00pm, Malone House, Belfast

Public Procurement has assumed a crucial role in the recession damaged economies in operation in both jurisdictions on this island. It is not surprising therefore that EU law procurement regimes have become the focus of intense attention by state authorities and those funded by them, the private sector, the social economy, academics, and lawyers serving these interests. The stakes are high to get the best from the rules.

The conference will be of particular relevance to practising lawyers and academics with an interest in this fast developing area of law, to public authorities with procurement needs and organisations engaged in procurement processes as well as those concerned with linkages between procurement and other policy areas such as social, environmental and equality where linkages with procurement has the potential to advance their aims. Northern Ireland has been in the front line of many innovative policy approaches and case-law in recent times.

The Centre is delighted to have secured the involvement of top decision makers, leading legal practitioners and well known academic and judicial experts for this Belfast based conference.

PROGRAMME

09.15 am	<i>Registration</i>
09.45am	Welcome, Jonathan Tomkin BL, Director, Irish Centre for European Law
	<i>Session I – Public Procurement</i> / CHAIR: <i>The Honourable Mrs Justice Fidelma Macken The Supreme Court of Ireland, Chairman, Irish Centre for European Law</i>
09.50am	Overview of the Operation of the Public Procurement Rules: Benefits, Costs, Problems and Challenges for the Future
	<i>Des Armstrong, Director, Central Procurement Directorate for Northern Ireland Vincent Campbell, Director of Procurement Services, Office of Public Works</i>
10.35am	Choosing and disclosing criteria: Are case-law and common sense on speaking terms
	<i>Nigel Giffin QC, 11KBW Chambers</i>
11.15am	Questions and Answers

11.20am Refreshments

11.30am Public Procurement: Local Issues and Challenges: the Devolved setting: Developing Local Policy: Legal Challenges: Future Direction

Brian Doherty, Deputy Head, Departmental Solicitor's Office

11.55am (1) Practical Aspects of Public Procurement Law outside the Courtroom and (2) Relationship between Public Procurement Law and Competition Law

Vincent Power, Head of EU and Competition, A&L Goodbody

12.20pm The Revised Remedies Directive: Its Implementation and Recent Case-law

The Hon. Mr Justice Bernard McCloskey, High Court of Northern Ireland

12.50pm Questions and Answers: *Brian Doherty, Peter Girvan BL, The Hon. Mr Justice Bernard McCloskey; Vincent Power*

1.00pm Light Lunch served

1.45pm **Session II** Procurement and Social Policy / CHAIR: *The Honourable Mr Justice Bernard McCloskey, High Court of Northern Ireland*

Buying Social Justice through Procurement: Challenges and Opportunities

Christopher McCrudden, Professor of Human Rights and Equality Law, Queen's University Belfast; Blackstone Chambers; Leverhulme Major Research Fellow (2011-2014)

2.25pm Social Justice through Procurement: Industry's Perspective

John Armstrong, Managing Director, Construction Employers Federation

2.40pm Shared Services and Collaborative Services

Patrick McGovern, Head of Public Procurement (Dublin and Belfast), Arthur Cox

3.05pm Modernising Procurement Rules – the Commission's Policy Initiative

Michael Koenig, Head of Unit, Internal Market and Services, European Commission

3.45pm Making life easier? The Barriers to Procurement Opportunity Report: Adoption of Recommendations in Wales by the Welsh Government

Professor Dermot Cahill, Dean, University of Bangor

4.00pm Questions and Answers: *Des Armstrong, John Armstrong, Vincent Campbell, Dermot Cahill, Christopher McCrudden, Patrick McGovern, Michael Koenig.*

4.15pm Closing