

GUE/NGL GROUP

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

A COMPREHENSIVE CASE STUDY/REPORT ON THE EFFECTS OF LIBERALISATIONS ON PUBLIC SERVICES - SERVICES OF GENERAL ECONOMIC INTEREST IN THE NETHERLANDS

13 SEPTEMBER 2018

Introduction

The GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament is commissioning a study/report on the effects of liberalisations on public services - services of general economic interest.

Since the mid of the 1980s, European institutions have developed progressive liberalisation policies of public services or services of general economic interest (SGEI). Until then, public services or SGEIs, had remained subject to the responsibility of each Member State, which, regardless of the objectives of the Rome Treaty, had convened to continue to define, organise and finance these services within their national framework.

The main sectors concerned by the liberalisation process have been telecommunications, postal services, electricity and gas, and transport.

The objectives of SGEIs have progressively changed along with the amendments of the treaties.

There has never been accomplished a genuine economic, social and environmental evaluation of the liberalisation process, even though three reports¹ have been published by the European Commission in 2004, 2005 and 2007. Since then, no other updated study has been produced.

GUE/NGL is now seeking to fill this gap by commissioning a limited research project on the effects of the EU's liberalisation policies focusing on three sectors.

Subject

The study/report will focus on **3 major sectors**

- Transports: railway
- Energy: electricity
- Postal services

Particular topics to be addressed in the study/report include:

On the one hand, Protocol 26 of the treaties defines the common values of the EU and Member States. On that basis, criteria and indicators of analysis could be defined, according to available data:

- a high level of quality
- a high level of safety
- a high level of affordability
- equal treatment
- the promotion of universal access
- the promotion of user rights

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/economic-reports/docs/sec-2004-866_en.pdf

<http://edz.bib.uni-mannheim.de/edz/pdf/sek/2005/sek-2005-1781-en.pdf>

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/pages/publication_summary9605_en.htm

On the other hand, universal service obligations (for post and electricity) and/or public service obligations (for electricity and railway transport) allow the definition of other criteria and indicators of analysis. More generally, there could be taken into account issues and objectives such as:

- the respect of national, regional, local diversities and subsidiarity principle
- the differences in the needs and preferences of users that may result from different geographical, social or cultural situations
- differing local environmental concerns;
- employment
- cohesion²

Methodology

The study will focus on the railway sector, the postal services and the electricity sector in The Netherlands. It will develop a clear analytical model for measuring the effects of liberalisation on the basis of the above-mentioned indicators and objectives. Subsequently, it will see whether negative effects could be mitigated by the government (while respecting EU-legislation and -jurisprudence) or whether EU-legislation itself should be changed in order to receive better results.

The study/report should result in concrete recommendations for both the Netherlands government and the relevant EU-policies and legislation.

Length of the research project

3-4 month: the successful candidate will be appointed no later than the 22th of October 2018.

Deliverables

A comprehensive study on the subject matter outlined above written in English, including a detailed breakdown per sector as regards the different indicators (a specific format will be provided).

A first report should be produced no later than 1 February 2019.

The final report should be produced no later than 1 March 2019.

In the event that agreement is not reached about the final acceptance of the report by the GUE/NGL Group, the matter will be referred to arbitration.

Cost

The GUE/NGL Group have allocated a sum of €1.500 (not including VAT as the GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament is exempt from VAT) for this study to be completed. Payment will be made as agreed between the parties.

Contracting authority

The contracting authority will be the GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament.

Address for tenders

Expressions of interest should be sent by e-mail to guetenders@europarl.europa.eu by 14 October 2018.

² ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/territorial-cohesion/

Copyright

Copyright and intellectual property in the report and structure of the presentation of information to be used in the longer term will belong to the funding bodies. The authors' authorship will be acknowledged. Permission to the authors to publish in relation to the research after publication and presentation of the final overarching report will not be unreasonably withheld, and any such publication must contain a reference to the funders in a footnote of the opening page.

Legal and Technical Requirements

This project will suit a single researcher or team. The project may not be subcontracted. A group, if successful, will be required to contract as a single entity, having joint and several liability. Any other employments undertaken by key personnel must not conflict with the goal of the research.

Legal entities are required to state the names and professional qualifications of all the personnel responsible for execution of the contract.

Expressions of interest should cover:

1. Description of the tenderer
2. Tenderer's approach to the project including methodology and schedule of work
3. The costs
4. Description of all personnel, including CVs detailing relevant qualifications, publications and experience
5. Tenderer's premises, equipment and resources to conduct research

The GUE/NGL Group reserves the right to negotiate a variation of terms with the chosen tenderer.

The Award criteria will include:

1. Academic and/or professional qualifications;
2. Previous experience and/or previous publication in the field of the study;
3. Comprehensiveness of the proposal for undertaking the research;
4. Proposed schedule for completion of the project (i.e., within the projected time);

Termination of the project

The GUE/NGL Group reserves the right to terminate the project in the following circumstances:

- if key personnel cease to be available to work on the project, due to illness or any other cause.

- if the project is not making satisfactory progress, in the opinion of the advisory committee (consisting of MEP Dennis de Jong and policy advisors Vera Inekci and Femke Reudler Talsma), and the contracting party is given one month's notice of this. On receiving notice, the contracting party has the right to make representations and discuss the matter, with a view to resolving the issue. However, the advisory committee's decision will be final. Part payment for work actually done will be considered and awarded at the sole discretion of the GUE/NGL Group.

Additional information

The contracting authority accepts no liability for any costs, expenses or charges incurred by candidates in the development of tender proposals.

Contract award may be subject to the approval of competent authorities.

Time limit for receipt of calls for interest: 14 October 2018.

Questions, if any, should be addressed to Femke Reudler Talsma by 1st of October 2018. Any contact between the GUE/NGL Group and the applicants has to be by email. Answers to questions will be sent to all applicants. Email to both addresses: femke.reudlertalsma@ep.europa.eu and guetenders@europarl.europa.eu.

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