



Seminar

Integrity in Public Tendering Procedures

Centre for Information and Research on Organised Crime (CIROC)

Wednesday 1 October 2014
Utrecht University – Achter Sint Pieter 200 – 3512 HT Utrecht

For Wednesday 1 October 2014, the Centre for Information and Research on Organised Crime (CIROC) is organising a seminar entitled:

Integrity in Public Tendering Procedures ***(Integriteit van openbare aanbestedingen)***

In recent years, the Dutch Public Prosecution Service has given high priority to the combat of undermining activities by organised crime. These activities are considered as undermining if they harm the integrity and effectiveness of government institutions. Various countries (Canada, Italy, the United States) have found that organised crime can significantly affect the integrity of government decisions, and more specifically that of decision making in public tendering procedures. Organised crime manifests itself in the corruption or threatening of civil servants, administrators and politicians who are involved in the decision-making processes regarding public tendering procedures and public contracts. This allows organised crime to play a 'regulatory' role, by agreeing pricing and work arrangements with companies that participate in these public tendering procedures, trying to win government contracts. In such circumstances, market forces in public tendering procedures are frustrated.

In Italy various research projects have been conducted in recent decades, analysing how the Mafia proved capable of manipulating these tendering procedures, thus withdrawing funds from the state treasury. The relevant rules seem to have become more resistant to abuse however, which raises the question of whether the influence of organised crime on the outcome of public tenders in Italy has decreased. In the morning session of this seminar, researchers from North and South Italy will address this question. They will also discuss the conditions in which organised crime can control public decision making.

In the afternoon session, speakers will address the situation in the Netherlands. Is the integrity of public tendering procedures affected by the existence of organised crime? What have we learned from the comprehensive parliamentary inquiries into the nature and scope of the Dutch 'Construction Fraud'? What safeguards are currently in place to protect the integrity of public decision making? And do recent cases (such that of Mr Hooijmaijers, former member of the Provincial Executive in the province of North Holland, and the corruption investigation regarding Mr Van Rey, former alderman in Roermond) give us reason to assume that the integrity of public decision makers is under pressure?

Programme

09.30-10.00 Welcome and coffee

Morning session (in English)

Chairman: Prof. Dr. Hans Nelen (CIROC/Maastricht University)

10.00-10.15 Welcoming words and introduction

10.15-11.00 Criminal infiltration of the public sector – Dr. Paolo Canonico and Dr. Ernesto de Nito (Università di Napoli/Università Magna Graecia di Catanzaro, Italia)

11.00-11.45 The awarding of public contracts and safeguarding integrity; the Italian experience - Prof. Dr. Ernesto Savona / dr. Stefano Caneppele (Università Catholica di Milano /Transcrime, Italia)

11.45-12.30 Debate

12.30-13.30 Lunch

Afternoon session (in Dutch)

Chairman: Prof. Dr. Henk van de Bunt (CIROC/Erasmus University Rotterdam)

13.15-14.00 The tendering rules: potential risks in practice – André Mikkers MA (forensic investigator at Price Waterhouse Coopers)

14.00-14.45 Integrity in the public sector: the 'House in Order' Operation (*operatie 'Schoon Schip'*) – Prof. Dr. Marcel Pheiffer (Nyenrode Business University)

14.45-15.00 Coffee/tea

15.00-15.45 The combat of corruption and cartel activity in public tendering procedures: experiences – Stefanie Lablans MA (National Police Internal Investigations Department) and Jacco Hakfoort MA (Authority for Consumers and Markets)

15.45-16.30 The psychology of corruption – Madelijne Gorsira MSc. (VU Amsterdam)

16.30-17.00 Closing debate

17.00-17.45 Drinks

Further information:

Costs:

Participation costs are € 220, including lunch and drinks.

Location:

Utrecht University, Achter Sint Pieter 200, 3512 HT Utrecht, room: *Raadzaal*.

Registration:

You can register for this seminar on www.ciroc.nl.

Registrations are processed in order of receipt. You will receive an invoice after registration. The number of places available is limited.

To allow for effective planning, please register before 15 September 2014.

Cancellation:

Cancellation should be in writing and is free of charge until 7 days before the date of the seminar. We will have to charge € 50 for any later cancellations.

How to reach us:

The walk from Utrecht Central Station to Achter Sint Pieter 200 will take you about 15 minutes.

Should you prefer using public transport, the following city buses have a stop at the nearby Janskerkhof: 3 and 4 (direction: Burg. Fockema Andreaelaan), 8 (direction: Overvecht), and 28 (direction: De Uithof).

From Janskerkhof to Achter Sint Pieter 200 is a 3-minute walk.

Questions?

Should you have any questions, please let us know by contacting the Willem Pompe Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology:

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