2026 EPCO

Public Procurement Conference

Brought to you by the Eurosystem Procurement Coordination Office

22 October 2026
Banque centrale du Luxembourg



Featuring speaker sessions from:


Olivier Giannoni

Patricia Valcárcel Fernández

Steven Van Garsse

Manuel García Rodríguez

Aleksandra Czajka

Banque centrale du Luxembourg (BCL)
2, Boulevard Royal / L-2983 Luxembourg

Also available to attend via Webex

epco@bcl.lu / +352 4774 4809
www.epco.lu



Public Procurement Conference Agenda

22 October 2026

Timing	Topic
08.45 – 09.15	Access of participants to the conference
09.15 – 09.30	**Welcome and Opening remarks** **Eva RODRÍGUEZ BIELSA**, Head of EPCO, Eurosystem Procurement Coordination Office (EPCO)
	Morning Session
09.30 – 10.15	**How European preference and digital sovereignty are reshaping public procurement : the case of software** **Olivier GIANNONI**, Chief Corporate Affairs and Legal Officer of the Union of the Public Purchasing Groups (UGAP), France
10.15 – 11.00	**Procuring Artificial Intelligence: Rethinking Public Procurement for the AI (Artificial Intelligence) Era** **Patricia VALCÁRCEL FERNÁNDEZ**, Professor of Administrative Law, University of Vigo, Spain
11.00 – 11.30	**Coffee break**
11.30 – 12.15	**Modifications in Public Procurement from Award to Performance** **Steven VAN GARSSE**, Dean Faculty of Law, Hasselt University, Belgium
12:15 - 13.30	**Lunch**
	Afternoon Session
13.30 – 14.15	**Digital Transformation in Public Procurement: Artificial Intelligence and Data Analysis** **Manuel GARCÍA RODRÍGUEZ**, Data Engineer, Banco de España, Spain
14.15 – 15.00	**Standards and Sustainability Labels in Public Procurement: Simplification, Verification, and Global Challenges** **Aleksandra CZAJKA**, Public Procurement Specialist, Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Berlin, Germany
15.00 – 15.15	Closing Remarks and cocktail

BANQUE CENTRALE DU LUXEMBOURG
EUROSYSTEM



Session 1

How European preference and digital sovereignty are reshaping public procurement: the case of software

09.30 – 10.15

Olivier GIANNONI

Mr Olivier GIANNONI is Chief Corporate Affairs and Legal Officer at UGAP, France's main central public procurement body, with more than €6 billion in annual procurement activity and 1,600 employees. In this role, he oversees corporate governance, financial strategy, real estate policy and human resources, and serves as Secretary to the Board of Directors.

As Legal Director, he has extensive experience in public procurement, contractual and regulatory matters, leading complex projects and multidisciplinary teams and developing innovative approaches to procurement and legal management. In 2022, he received the Gold Award for Innovative Legal Management for an initiative focused on contract automation and the digitalisation of legal processes. Since 2025, he has also been a member of the Stakeholder Expert Group on Public Procurement of the European Commission, contributing to discussions on the future of European public procurement legislation.

Prior to joining UGAP, Mr Giannoni held senior positions in the French public administration, including Deputy Director for Finance at the French Civil Aviation Authority. Earlier in his career, he worked at the French Budget Ministry and served as a judge in the French administrative judiciary.
Alongside his executive responsibilities, he teaches public affairs at Sciences Po Paris and lectures on public contracts, public procurement and public finance at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University. He is the author of *Strategy and Techniques of Public Procurement* and regularly publishes on European and French public procurement law and policy.

He holds a master's degree in public law from Paris-Panthéon-Assas University and is a graduate of Sciences Po Paris.



Olivier GIANNONI, Chief Corporate Affairs and Legal Officer of the Union of Public Purchasing Groups (UGAP), France



Session 2

Procuring Artificial Intelligence: Rethinking Public Procurement for the AI Era

10.15 – 11.00

Patricia VALCÁRCEL FERNÁNDEZ

Ms Patricia VALCÁRCEL-FERNÁNDEZ is Full Professor of Administrative Law at the University of Vigo, where she pursues an extensive academic, research, institutional and knowledge-transfer career, with a particular focus on Public Procurement Law and the major challenges facing Administrative Law in the context of technological and environmental transformation.

Her research career has been enriched by research stays at internationally renowned institutions, including the Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy), Universidade Lusíada de Lisboa (Portugal), Universidad Anáhuac in Xalapa (Mexico), the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom), and the University of Bergen (Norway). She has also been a Visiting Professor at the Università degli Studi di Torino.

Her main research areas include Public Procurement Law, Environmental Law, and the relationship between Law and new technologies, with an increasing and specialised focus on the challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Administrative Law and, in particular, to public procurement.

In the specific field of public procurement, she has participated in numerous competitive research projects funded by Spanish and foreign public institutions, focusing on the main legal and strategic challenges facing the discipline. She has served as Principal Investigator in six of these projects. These projects have addressed issues related to transparency and competition within the framework of strategic and professionalised public procurement, as well as the evolution of this field in the context of digital and technological transformation.

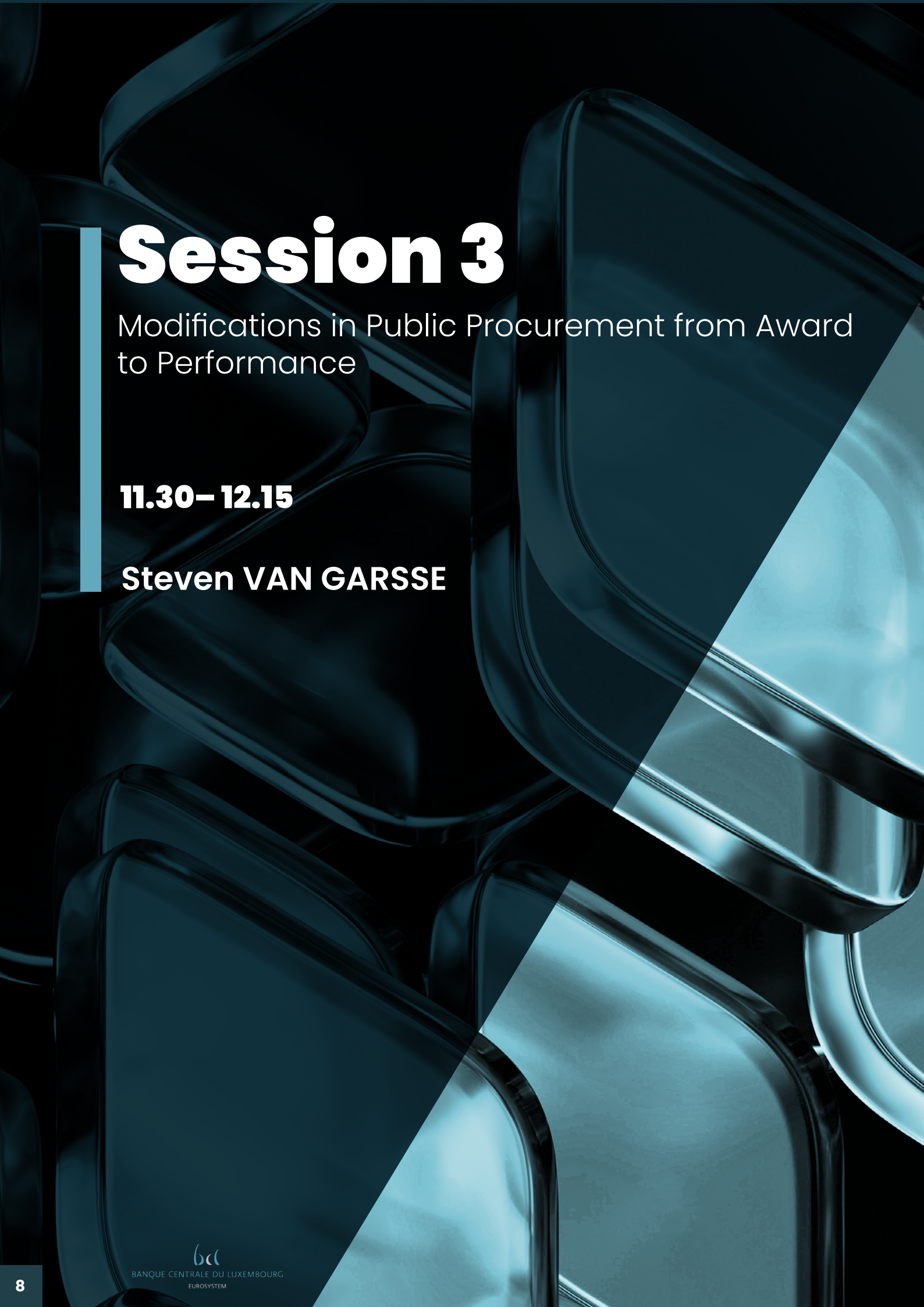
She is Director of the Veolia Chair on Strategic Public Procurement and Sustainability (Convive) at the University of Vigo. She is also a member of the Public Procurement Observatory (ObCP), the European Procurement Law Group (EPLG) and Public Contracts in Legal Globalization (PCLG).



Patricia VALCÁRCEL-FERNÁNDEZ, Professor of Administrative Law, University of Vigo, Spain

Her academic activity is complemented by extensive dissemination and knowledge-transfer work with public and private institutions, both nationally and internationally, through lectures, seminars and training and professional development courses aimed at professionals and specialists. Her profile is further strengthened by extensive practical and knowledge-transfer experience, developed through consultancy contracts and projects for public- and private-sector entities.
Professor Valcárcel Fernández is the author of numerous publications in leading academic publishers and legal journals, as well as specialised and high-impact research works. Her scholarly output combines doctrinal rigour with a strong focus on practically relevant legal issues and the transformative processes affecting public administrations.

In addition to her academic and research experience, she has a distinguished career in university management and specialised legal advisory work. She has served as Vice-Rector for Academic Staff at the University of Vigo, Acting General Manager, Deputy General Manager for Procurement, and Advisor to the Rector on public procurement and the simplification of administrative procedures. She has also served as a member of the Xunta de Galicia Advisory Board on Administrative Procurement and as a member of the Artificial Intelligence Expert Group established by the Xunta de Galicia



Session 3

Modifications in Public Procurement from Award to Performance

11.30– 12.15

Steven VAN GARSSE

BANQUE CENTRALE DU LUXEMBOURG
EUROSYSTEM

Professor Dr Steven VAN GARSSE is a leading international expert in public procurement, concessions and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), bringing more than 25 years of specialised experience in the field.

He has advised on and helped structure numerous major infrastructure and PPP projects, as well as smaller-scale partnerships, and possesses deep expertise in dispute resolution.

For more than a decade, he has been actively involved in PPP-related activities at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), where he currently serves as Vice-Chair of the UNECE Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships.

In Belgium, he previously held the position of Director of the Flemish PPP Unit.

Alongside his legal practice, he is an academic, author and lecturer specialising in PPPs, public procurement and public contracts. He has authored or co-authored more than 150 books and articles, sits on the editorial boards of leading legal journals and serves on numerous doctoral committees.



Steven VAN GARSSE, Dean Faculty of Law, Hasselt University, Belgium

Session 4

Digital Transformation in Public Procurement: Artificial Intelligence and Data Analysis

13.30 – 14.15

Manuel GARCÍA RODRÍGUEZ



Mr Manuel García Rodríguez is a Telecommunications Engineer from the University of Oviedo (Spain) who holds a PhD in Public Procurement Data Analysis, with a focus on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence.

He has more than 20 publications on how digital technologies help address current challenges in procurement and the detection of anti-competitive or fraudulent practices. Both the European Commission and the Spanish National Markets and Competition Commission (CNMC) recognize him as a leading public procurement specialist.

He has delivered lectures at numerous universities and Public Administrations, earning seven awards for his contributions. Over the past 15 years, he has built extensive experience in various companies, consistently working in Research and Development, Digitalization and Consultancy.

Since November 2024, Mr García Rodríguez has been working at Banco de España as a Data & AI Engineer within the Public Procurement Department.



Manuel GARCÍA RODRÍGUEZ, Data Engineer, Banco de España, Spain

Session 5

Standards and Sustainability Labels in Public Procurement: Simplification, Verification, and Global Challenges

14.15 – 15.00

Aleksandra CZAJKA

Ms Aleksandra CZAJKA is an an Attorney at Law with 15 years of international expertise in public procurement, shaped by her legal practice and residence in Spain, Poland, and Germany. She brings together a strong academic background, including *summa cum laude* PhD in Law, with extensive hands on practice in EU procurement law, public private partnerships, concessions, and sustainable purchasing.

She currently works in the field of textile global regulations and public procurement as a Specialist at the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). In this role, Aleksandra supports public authorities in integrating credible environmental and social criteria into tender processes and helps suppliers navigate evolving sustainability requirements. Her work is dedicated to turning procurement into an effective lever for accelerating sustainability across the textile sector.

Additionally, Ms Czajka serves as a member of the European Commission's Stakeholder Expert Group on Public Procurement, where she contributes her cross - border and comparative legal expertise to the ongoing development of EU procurement policies.



Aleksandra CZAJKA, Public Procurement Specialist, Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Germany

ABOUT EPCO

Established in 2008 by the Governing Council of the **European Central Bank (ECB)**, EPCO promotes **collaboration and coordination in joint procurement** across the Eurosystem and ESCB Central Banks. **Banque centrale du Luxembourg (BCL)** hosts EPCO, with its current mandate running until 31 December 2029.

Our legal framework is Decision ECB/2008/17 laying down the framework for joint Eurosystem procurement (as amended).

OUR MISSION

EPCO enables central banks to achieve **efficiency, effectiveness, and best vaue for money** in the procurement of goods and services. By fostering **cross-border cooperation and joint initiatives**, EPCO leverages synergies, economies of scale, and shared expertise to deliver high-quality procurement outcomes.

WHAT WE DO

EPCO coordinates and support central banks in **all stages of joint procurement**, including:

- **Identifying opportunities** for joint Eurosystem procurement
- **Preparing the annual EPCO Procurement Plan**
- **Consolidating and aligning requirements** across central banks
- **Supporting tender procedures and contract management**
- **Sharing and promoting best practices**

OUR NETWORK OF PROCUREMENT EXPERTS

At the heart of EPCO's success is its **Network of Procurement Experts**, composed of procurement professionals and managers from all participating ESCB central banks.

This network ensures **knowledge sharing, practical guidance, and continuous development of procurement excellence** across the Eurosystem.

EPCO MEMBERS

All central banks of the EU can participate in EPCO's activities. Additionnally, other national, European, and international organisations may benefit from EPCO's procurements, subject to the Governing Council's approval and compliance with participation conditions.

EPCO IN BRIEF

- **Established**: 2008 by ECB Governing Council
- **Hosted by**: Banque centrale du Luxembourg (BCL)
- **Focus**: Joint procurement, best practices, efficiency
- **Core Network**: Senior procurement experts across ESCB central banks
- **Reach**: EU central banks + approved national/ European/international organisations

◆ Connecting expertise ◆ Driving efficiency ◆ Delivering value

EPCO Contact: epco@bcl.lu / +352 4774-4809
www.epco.lu