

# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Head of Division

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eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2016) 6877743

Mr Lee Rotherham  
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*Subject: Your request for access to documents of 30 September 2016*  
*Our ref: 2016/084*

Dear Mr Rotherham,

I would like to thank you for your request of 30 September 2016, for access to documents, which we have examined in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001<sup>1</sup>.

In response to your request, we would like to inform you that there is no document listing either the number or the nature of occasions where the removal of diplomatic immunity or removal from post of an EEAS official has been requested. Moreover, in accordance with Article 4.1 (b) of the Regulation, disclosure of any information concerning those cases would inevitably undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with the Union rules regarding the protection of personal data and, potentially, the relations with the third country concerned.

We have also examined your second request concerning the removal of diplomatic immunity, or removal from post at the request of the EEAS, of an accredited diplomat in Brussels. Please note that foreign diplomats serving in Brussels accredited to the European Union are registered with the Protocol Service of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>2</sup>. A request for waiver of immunity of a member of the Diplomatic Corps would normally occur only at the request of the competent judicial authorities for law enforcement purposes. The EEAS is not competent in

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (hereafter the "Regulation").

<sup>2</sup> The FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation  
<http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/Protocol>

such matters. Also, the EEAS has not submitted any request for removal from post of a diplomat accredited to the EU.

Yours sincerely



Gabriele Visentin

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