

# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Head of Division

Brussels, **20 AVR. 2017**  
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2017) 1966299

Mr Arun Dohle  
[ask+request-4102-39b12f16@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-4102-39b12f16@asktheeu.org)

*Subject: Your request for access to documents of 20 March 2017*  
*Our ref: 2017/051*

Dear Mr Dohle,

Thank you for your request for access to documents, which we have examined in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001<sup>1</sup>.

We have identified the following documents which I am pleased to forward to you attached to this letter:

1. Two letters from High Representative/ Vice-President Federica Mogherini sent to NGOs focusing on the rights of the child.
2. The most recent programs of the conferences with child-focussed NGOs where the revised Guidelines were raised.
  - a) **"Add It Up: Making Budgets Work For Girls", General Comment 19 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child**, 14b Rue de la Science – Brussels, Thursday 13 October, 09.00 to 11.45 .
  - b) **ChildPact and WorldVision - Launch of the Child Protection Index**, Wednesday, 28 September 2016 – 15:00-17:00 (Rue Belliard 99)
  - c) **SOS Children's Villages International**, Thursday, 19 January 2017, 14h-17h30, Leopold Hotel, Rue du Luxembourg 35, Brussels. Presentation of their new *Towards the Right Care for Children* report.

---

<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").

In addition, we have also identified:

- Discussions with EU Member States on the draft Guidelines which took place in COHOM, the Working Group on Human Rights and Democracy, on the following dates; 27 January 2016, 18 January 2017, 1 February 2017.
- Internal meetings with Commission Colleagues held on Tuesday, 23 February 2016 and Friday, 27 May 2016, where Commission colleagues gave feedback on the draft Guidelines.
- A meeting was held with the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) on Thursday, 2 June 2016, where many child focussed NGOs were represented; Plan International, ChildFund, World Vision and SOS Children's Villages. In this meeting, the draft Guidelines were discussed in general and NGOs expressed their support and willingness to be of help if needed.
- A meeting with Mr. Benyam Dawit MEZMUR, chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF, took place in the EEAS on Tuesday, 8 November 2016. From his experience as chair of the UN CRC his advice was sought on the system-strengthening and rights based approach taken in the draft Guidelines.
- The annual EEAS training on the rights of the Child held in the EEAS on 17 November 2016 was facilitated by UNICEF. The training had a focus on the developments taken into account in the revised Guidelines. This training was attended by EU representatives of Member States and officials from EU institutions and EU Delegations.
- Discussions held with civil society on the new EU action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy throughout 2014- 2015 were used in the revision of the EU Guidelines on Children, in particular the discussion on the actions therein on children provided input for the Guidelines. Two (2) meetings were held with the HRDN in 2014; 26 June 2014 and 21 October 2014.
- Written contributions received from child-focussed NGOS following consultations held in 2012 on the tentative revision of the Guidelines were also used to revise the Guidelines in 2016.

The reports of the meetings above include references to views expressed by Member States and by representatives of other organisations. The discussions were also part of the preparations for the revision of the EU guidelines. Therefore, we are not in a position to disclose the requested documents at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it could a) seriously undermine the the institutions decision making process and b) risk undermining the international relations (as per Art 4(3)1<sup>st</sup> indent and 4(1)(a)3<sup>rd</sup> indent of the Regulation).

Should you wish this position to be reviewed, you may confirm your initial request within 15 working days.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Visentin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gabriele Visentin

The European External Action Service  
EEAS PARC 6/560  
B- 1046 Brussels  
[access-to-documents@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:access-to-documents@eeas.europa.eu)