

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Corporate Board Secretariat

Brussels, **12 JUL. 2013**
eeas.sg.1(2013) 2679325

Mr Jan
ask+request-502-5f133990@asktheeu.org

Dear Jan,

Subject: Your request for access to documents 2013/38

Thank you for your request dated 13 May 2013, which was registered in the EEAS access to documents registry under reference 2013/38, for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents ("the Regulation") requesting information on a number of EU-China policy dialogues.

The latest updated version of the Graph of EU-China Dialogues Architecture can be consulted on the following link:

http://eeas.europa.eu/china/docs/eu_china_dialogues_en.pdf

Among the dialogues you refer to, the ones for which the EEAS is responsible are the following ones:

- Meetings of EUSRs and special envoys
- EU-China Political Directors' Dialogue
- EU-China political dialogue on Africa
- EU-China political dialogue on Latin America
- EU-China Dialogue on Asia
- EU-China dialogue on security and defence (previously called Crisis Management Consultation)
- EU-China Task force on Cyber Issues
- EU-China Human Rights Dialogue

Commission DGs are in the lead for the other dialogues you mention. They will respond to you separately.

The EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, communiqués released by the EU since the creation of the EEAS can be found on the following links:

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/china/press_corner/all_news/news/2011/20110616_01_en.htm

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/130529.pdf

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137607.pdf

We have considered whether the reports of the dialogues for which the EEAS is responsible could be released. These reports concern political dialogues which are based on the principle of confidentiality. Their disclosure could negatively affect the possibility of holding such dialogues in the future or their substance, should the level of trust between interlocutors on both sides be weakened as a result. It would thus undermine the protection of international relations (Art 4.1 (a), 3rd indent of Regulation 1049/2001).

We have also examined the possibility of granting partial access to the reports of the dialogues concerned (Article 4.6 of the Regulation). However, for the reasons we have explained above, we believe that all parts of the documents are covered by the above mentioned exception, and therefore no such access can be granted at this time.

Should you wish this position to be reviewed you may write to the EEAS at the address below, confirming your initial request. You have fifteen working days in which to do so from receipt of this letter, after which your initial request will be deemed to have been satisfied.

The EEAS would inform you of the result of this review within fifteen working days from the registration of your request, either granting you access to the documents or confirming the refusal. In the latter case, you would be informed of how you can take further action.

All correspondence should be sent to the following address:

The European External Action Service
EEAS, Office PARC 01/278
B- 1046 Brussels
access-to-documents@eeas.europa.eu

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Onestini', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Cesare Onestini
Head of Division