



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate C - Transparency, Efficiency & Resources
The Director

Brussels,
SG.C/VT/VAL

By registered mail:

Ms Gisella Rojas
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Subject: Your application for access to documents pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and European Commission documents – ref. GestDem 2019/1390

Dear Ms Rojas,

I refer to your e-mail of 10 March 2019, registered on 11 March 2019, by which you make a request pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and European Commission documents¹.

You requested access to the *‘list of the churches and philosophical and non-denominational organizations that according to the decision of 25 November 2014 (839) foreseen in Article 3 are exclude by the decision to publish information on meetings held between members of the Commission and them’*.

In your request, you referred to a specific provision, namely Article 3(1) of the Commission Decision No 2014/839/EU, Euratom of 25 November 2014 on the publication of information on meetings held between Members of the Commission and organisations or self-employed individuals² (hereinafter, Decision No 2014/839/EU). In this context, please note that Article 3(1) of Decision No 2014/839/EU needs to be read together with Recital 9 of Decision No 2014/839/EU:

¹ OJ L 145 of 31.05.2001, p.43.

² OJ L 343, 28.11.2014, p. 22.

‘In order to respect [...] the specific character of the dialogue with churches and philosophical and non-confessional organisations, provided for in Article 17(3) TFEU, meetings taking place in those contexts should not be covered by this Decision’.

Article 3(1) of Decision No 2014/839/EU states:

‘This Decision shall not apply to meetings held with social partners at Union level in the context of the social dialogue, or to meetings held in the context of the dialogue with churches, religious associations or communities, as well as with philosophical and non-confessional organisations.’

Against the above background, I would like to highlight that the exception in Article 3(1) of Decision No 2014/839/EU does not apply to a pre-determined specific list of churches, religious associations or communities, or philosophical and non-confessional organisations. This is because this provision rather refers to a process (namely, the dialogue pursuant to Article 17(3) TFEU). The management of the dialogue has been entrusted to the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers.³

For this reason, the Secretariat-General of the European Commission does not have a document that would correspond to your request. Nevertheless, the Secretariat-General has attributed an initial request for access to document to the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (under reference GestDem 2019/1613) and asked them to reply to you.

Finally, it may be useful to add that the meetings with churches, religious associations or communities, or philosophical and non-confessional organisations are not published pursuant to Decision No 2014/839/EU when they occur in the framework of the dialogue pursuant to Article 17(3) TFEU. However, meetings with networks or associations created to represent churches and religious communities registered in the Transparency Register and occurring outside of the dialogue may very well be published. To this end, you may find it useful to consult the individual profiles listed on the Transparency Register under Section V ‘organisations representing churches and religious communities’.⁴

Yours sincerely,



Tatjana VERRIER

³ You can find more information on the dialogue, the meetings and their participants here:
https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=50189

⁴ You can access the list of organisations representing churches and religious communities here:
<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/reportControllerPager.do?action=search&categories=56&>