



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND CAPITAL MARKETS UNION

General Affairs

Policy planning and implementation, inter-institutional relations

Brussels, 24/04/2019

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Mr Álvaro Merino  
Calle Ricardo Ortiz 61, 1B  
28017 Madrid  
Spain

By registered letter with  
acknowledgement of receipt

Advanced copy per mail

**Subject: Your request for access to documents (our ref. GESTDEM: 2019/1608)**

Dear Mr. Merino,

Thank you very much for your e-mail dated 15 March 2019 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered under the above mentioned reference number.

Please accept our apologies for the time taken in answering your question. Your request is as follows:

*Under the right of access to documents in the EU treaties, as developed in Regulation 1049/2001, I am requesting documents which contain the following information:*

*A list of all lobby meetings held by the vice-president and the commissioner in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, or any other member of their Cabinet with any organisations representing churches and/or religious communities since 2014 onwards, including all emails, minutes, reports or any other briefing papers related to all those meetings.*

After a search, 2 documents of correspondence between the Head of the Cabinet Dombrovskis - Mr Kai Wynands and COMECE (Commission of the Bishops' Conference of the EU) have been identified as falling within the scope of your request.

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, I have come to the conclusion that they may be partially disclosed. As regards to the agenda, we have blanked out those parts of the agenda which were not linked to the discussion with Mr. Wynands. In addition, some parts of the documents have been blanked out as their disclosure is

prevented by exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of this Regulation, for data protection reasons.

Personal data can only be transmitted under specific exceptional conditions, including if *'the recipient establishes that it is necessary to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest'*. According to Article 9(1)(b) of Regulation 2018/1725, the European Commission also only has to examine the further conditions for a lawful processing of personal data if the recipient has established that it is necessary to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest. In your request, you do not put forward any arguments to establish the necessity to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest.

Notwithstanding the above, please note that there are reasons to assume that the legitimate interests of the data subjects concerned would be prejudiced by disclosure of the personal data reflected in the documents.

Consequently, I conclude that, pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation 1049/2001, access cannot be granted to the personal data, as the need to obtain access thereto for a purpose in the public interest has not been substantiated and there is no reason to think that the legitimate interests of the individuals concerned would not be prejudiced by disclosure of the personal data concerned.

Should you disagree with the assessment that the redacted data are personal data which can only be disclosed if such disclosure is legitimate under the applicable rules on the protection of personal data, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, to submit a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretariat-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission  
Secretariat-General  
Unit C.1. 'Transparency, Document Management and Access to Documents'  
BERL 7/076  
B-1049 Brussels or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Please note that those documents were received by the Commission. They are disclosed for information only and cannot be re-used without the agreement of the originator, who holds a copyright on them. They do not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

Last but not least, I would like to inform you that COMECE regularly publishes ample information, through press releases and social media, on the initiatives of dialogue of the Catholic Church with the EU public authorities. I encourage you to contact the organisation directly in order to get more information.

Yours sincerely,

Dorota ZALIWSKA



- Enclosure:
1. E-mail dated 24 March 2017
  2. Draft Agenda of spring meeting of COMECE Social Affairs Commission, 2 June 2017