



Unit 2 - Inquiries

Ms Maria Mora

ask+request-7707-4233b3e1@asktheeu.org

Strasbourg, 13/05/2020

Complaint 701/2020/DL

Dear Ms Mora,

On 19 April 2020, you sent us two e-mails as a follow-up to the Ombudsman decision in case 382/2020/DL. We understand these e-mails to be a complaint against the Commission for redacting the personal data in the documents it sent you in reply to your access to documents request. We therefore registered your correspondence as new complaint (701/2020/DL).

I am sorry to have to tell you that, for the reasons set out below, the Ombudsman is unable to deal with your complaint.

The Ombudsman is bound by strict rules in handling complaints regarding access to documents. For the Ombudsman to be able to examine a refusal by an EU institution to grant access to (parts of) documents in light of an access to documents request, the complainant must have exhausted the appropriate administrative steps under the EU rules on public access to documents<sup>1</sup>.

It appears from the documentation you have sent us that you did not ask the Commission to review its initial decision of 9 December 2019 within the prescribed deadline of 15 days<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately, this means that the Ombudsman is not in a position to look into this issue.

As regards your request to me for clarifications on the meaning of the documents you have received from the Commission, it is not the role of the Ombudsman to give explanations as regards the meaning of documents of other institutions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32001R1049>.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, the applicant may, within 15 working days of receiving the institution's reply, make a confirmatory application asking the institution to reconsider its position.



Thank you for having contacted the European Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely,

Fergal Ó Regan  
Head of Inquiries - Unit 2