



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

LEGAL SERVICE
The Director General

Brussels, 13. 02. 2015

By e-mail:

Mr. Wim Piper
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Subject: Request for access to documents

Ref.: Your e-mails of 10 November 2015 and 7 January 2015, registered under reference GestDem 2015/0133

Dear Mr. Piper,

I refer to your e-mail of 10 November 2014 requesting access, pursuant to Regulation 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents¹, to *"documents containing the following information: would the following areas, if they became independent states, be classed as non-EU members from the point of independence unless and until an application for the independent state to join the EU had been accepted:*

- 1.1 Ceuta on the African continent; or*
- 1.2 Melilla on the African continent; or*
- 1.3 French Guiana in South America; or*
- 1.4 Catalonia in Spain, Europe; or*
- 1.5 Scotland in UK, Europe; or*
- 1.6 Banat in Romania, Europe"*

I furthermore refer to your e-mail of 7 January 2015 providing the Commission with your personal postal address. As you were informed, your application was registered on 8 January 2015 under reference GestDem 2015/0133.

Having carefully examined Legal Service's files, I would like firstly to inform you that the Legal Service has not identified any legal opinion which corresponds to the terms of your request. Secondly, the following two documents have been identified as falling within the scope of your request:

¹ OJ L 145, 31.05.2001, page 43.

1. Letter of 29 October 2012, received by the Commission on 5 November 2012, from Lord Tugendhat, Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee of the House of Lords, to Mr. Barroso, President of the European Commission.
2. Letter of 10 December 2012 from Mr. Barroso in response to the Lord Tugendhat's 29 October 2012 letter.

Both documents were drawn up in the context of a future referendum to be held in Scotland on independence and concern the question of the relationship between an independent Scotland and the European Union. These documents are publicly available on the Parliament of the United Kingdom's website:

[http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/economic-affairs/ScottishIndependence/EA55 Letter to EU President 20121029.pdf](http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/economic-affairs/ScottishIndependence/EA55%20Letter%20to%20EU%20President%2020121029.pdf)

[http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/economic-affairs/ScottishIndependence/EA68 Scotland and the EU Barroso's reply to Lord Tugendhat 101212.pdf](http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/economic-affairs/ScottishIndependence/EA68%20Scotland%20and%20the%20EU%20Barroso's%20reply%20to%20Lord%20Tugendhat%20101212.pdf)

Yours sincerely,



Luis ROMERO REQUENA