



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Director-General

Brussels, 11 JUL. 2016  
GROW/I.4/MB/pb-Ares(2016)3577452

Ms Laëtitia Sédou

[ask+request-2798-  
490a374c@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-2798-490a374c@asktheeu.org)

**Subject: Second reply – Access request – Ref Sédou GestDem No 2016/2138**

Dear Ms Sédou,

We refer to your e-mail dated 10/06/2016 in which you make a follow-on request for access to documents, registered on 10/06/2016 under the above mentioned reference number.

We consider your request to cover documents concerning to meetings of the Group of Personalities for CSDP-related research (GoP) held up to the date of your initial application, i.e. 20/04/2016.

As concerns your requests concerning the minutes of the meetings of the GoP:

- The copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the GoP on 30 March 2015 sent to you in response to your first request for access to documents contain the names of the participants in the meeting;
- The minutes of the second meeting of the GoP on 17 November 2015 sent to you in response to your first request for access to documents are the complete minutes; no text has been removed in point 2;
- As stated in our first reply letter, the ToR of the GoP are included in the Group's report which can be downloaded under:

<http://www.iss.europa.eu/publications/detail/article/report-of-the-group-of-personalities-on-the-preparatory-action-for-csdp-related-research/>

- I can also confirm that apart from the meeting on 30 March 2015, there were no further meetings of the GoP before the June 2015 European Council.

As concerns your request for access to documents related to the work of the sherpas to the GoP members and their meetings including draft version of the GoP report: after having examined the documents requested, I regret to inform you that your application cannot be granted, as disclosure is prevented by exceptions to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents.

The documents which you seek to obtain would undermine the public interest as regards defence and military matters. Therefore the exception laid down in Article 4(1) first subparagraph of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 applies to these documents.

In addition, the documents which you seek to obtain relate to a decision which has not yet been taken by the Commission. Full or even partial disclosure of the documents requested would undermine the protection of the decision-making process of the Commission, as it would reveal preliminary views and policy options which are currently under consideration; the Commission's services must be free to explore all possible options in preparation of a decision free from external pressure. Therefore the exception laid down in Article 4(3) first subparagraph of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 applies to these documents.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make 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 Secretary-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission  
Secretary-General  
Transparency unit SG-B-4  
BERL 5/282  
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lowri Evans', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lowri Evans