



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate C – Asia and Latin America
Far East

14 FEB. 2013

Brussels,
DG Trade

Mr Scott Brown

By email only:

ask+request-324-30d47367@asktheeu.org

Subject: Request for access to documents Gestdem no. 2013/0355

Dear Mr Brown,

Thank you for your request received on 27 November 2012 and registered the same day under the references GESTDEM 2012/5491, for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents ("the Regulation").

We understand from your request that you would like access to the details of mandate given to the Commission by the Council on 10th April, 2000 relating to the negotiation of a bilateral trade deal preceding China's accession to the WTO (mandate referenced in the General Affairs Council's conclusions of its meeting on the 22nd May 2000 (Brussels, 2264th Council Meeting)) and to the position papers from Member States submitted to the relevant working groups in preparation of the negotiating process in the year 2000.

We have not identified any documents that fall under the scope of the first part of your request. Regarding the mandate, you should know that WTO accession is not legally a negotiation between the EU and a third country. There is no mandate per se and no ratification by EU Members States afterwards. All the information available can be found in the conclusions of General Affairs Councils of May 2000 that are available on the website of the Council:

- *General Affairs Council's conclusions of its meeting on the 22nd May 2000 (Brussels, 2264th Council Meeting)*

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/08575.en0.html#Toc483800177

- *General Affairs Council's conclusions of its meeting on the 10th April 2000 (Brussels, 2254th Council Meeting)*

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/07533.EN0.html

Regarding the second part of your request, we must inform you that we could not find any document or position papers from Members States. We would encourage you to contact the Council to ask whether such documents exist.

Should you wish this position to be reviewed you may write to the Commission's Secretary-General at the address below, confirming your initial request. You have fifteen working days in which to do so from receipt of this letter, after which your initial request will have deemed to have been satisfied.

The Secretary-General will inform you of the result of this review within fifteen working days from the registration of your request, either granting you access to the documents or confirming the refusal. In the latter case, you will be informed of how you can take further action.

All correspondence should be sent to the following address:

European Commission
Secretary-General
Transparency unit SG-B-5
BERL 5/327
B-1049 Bruxelles
or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter BERZ', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter BERZ