



Directorate B
The Director

Brussels, **14 MARS 2017**
SG.B4/FB/dvc/sg.dsg2.b.4(2017)1563907

By registered mail:

Mr David Savić
ALTER EU
Mundo B, Rue d'Edimbourg 26,
B - 1050 Brussels

Copy by e-mail:

ask+request-4014-67e9ab61@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your applications for access to documents pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents – ref. GESTDEM 2017/1097

Dear Mr Savić,

I refer to your e-mails of 22 February 2017, registered on the same day, by which you make a request pursuant to Regulation No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents¹.

You request access to:

- *all documents setting out the measures put in place to ensure an appropriate balance and representativeness in the stakeholders the Members of the Commission meet, in reference to the corresponding recommendation of the Working Methods of the European Commission 2014-2019;*
- *any communications between officials (including Commissioners and staff) on this particular issue;*
- *any documents related to the implementation and enforcement of these measures.*

You sent this access-to-documents request to a number of different Directorates-General and services, addressing each time a different Member of the Commission.

¹ Official Journal L145 of 31.05.2001, p.43.

We therefore considered your applications as targeting all Members of the Commission, and registered it as one request under the above-mentioned reference number.

As we explained in our e-mails of 23 February 2017 and 8 March 2017, we provide you with one overall answer, prepared by the Secretariat-General which is the responsible service concerning the *Working Methods of the European Commission 2014-2019* on which document you base your requests.

In a thorough search for the documents requested, we consulted 25 Directorates-General about the existence of documents falling under the scope of your request concerning their respective Member of the Commission.

Following that search, we regret to inform you that no documents were found that would correspond to the description given in your application.

Indeed, as specified in Article 2 (3) of Regulation 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that regulation applies only to *existing* documents in the possession of the institution.

Given that no such documents have been identified, the Commission is not in a position to handle your request.

In case you would disagree with the above assessment, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, to introduce 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-B4
BERL 5/340
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu.

By way of information, and in accordance with the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour, please find attached a copy of the Commission Decision of 25 November 2014 on the publication of information on meetings held between Members of the Commission and organisations or self-employed individuals². Following that Decision, all Members of the Commission publish, on their websites, the dates, locations and names of the organisations and self-employed individuals they meet.

Furthermore, the Working Methods of the European Commission 2014-2019³, document to which you refer in your request, lay down the rule that Members of the Commission (as well as their Cabinet members and Directors-General) should not meet interest representatives that are not on the Transparency Register.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Leardini', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Pascal Leardini

² Commission Decision of 25 November 2014 on the publication of information on meetings held between Members of the Commission and organisations or self-employed individuals (2014/839/EU, Euratom), 28.11.2014, L 343/22.

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/3/2014/EN/3-2014-9004-EN-F1-1.Pdf>.