



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION and HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General

Brussels,  
HOMEA2/FC

***By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt***

**Mr Mark AKKERMAN  
Anna Spenglerstraat 71  
NL - 1054 NH Amsterdam**

***Advance copy by email : [ask+request-4087-03cc05db@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-4087-03cc05db@asktheeu.org)***

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2017/1823**

Dear Sir,

We refer to your e-mail dated 14/03/2017 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 23/03/2017 under the above mentioned reference number.

In your initial mail dated 14/03/2017, you requested

- *minutes and other reports of meetings between DG HOME officials and representatives of non-EU-countries in which the issue(s) of border security and/or border control and/or illegal immigration were discussed in the period between April 1st 2015 and today;*
- *all correspondence (including emails) between DG HOME officials and representatives of non-EU-countries in which the issue(s) of border security and/or border control and/or illegal immigration were discussed in the period between April 1st 2015 and today.*

By mail dated 29/03/2017, we asked you to provide us with more detailed information on the documents which you seek to obtain.

By mail on the same day, you clarified your request as follows:

*"(The request) concerns the following list of countries:*

- *Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia,*

*and the following topics discussed:*

- *military and security cooperation in the field of border security/border management*
- *EU support (financial support, technical support, training) for military and security operations and purchases in the field of border security/border management*

*\* this is for both bilateral and multilateral meetings, on political, expert and operational level*

*\* to narrow down the period: from June 1st, 2016 to today."*

As far as the material scope of your request is concerned, we consider that you are requesting documents falling under two different issues:

1. *EU support (financial support, technical support, training) for military and security operations.* We are of the opinion that the focus of your request is on military operations, and that the term "security" is to be understood as being part of these military operations.
2. *Purchases in the field of border security/border management.*

As far as the temporal scope of your request is concerned, we consider that you are requesting documents from June 1st, 2016 to the day of the clarification of your request (29/03/2017).

We regret to inform you that no documents were found that would correspond to the description given in your application. The European Union does not support military operations and no purchases have been done in the field of border security/border management.

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 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 faithfully,

Matthias RUETE

[e-signed]