Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2017/1656

Dear Mr Akkerman,

I refer to your email of 15 March 2017, in which you request minutes, reports of meetings and correspondence between DG DEVCO officials and representatives of non-EU countries regarding border security, border control and/or illegal immigration in the period between 1 April 2015 and 15 March 2017.

I further refer to your clarification email of 24 April 2017, in which you narrowed down the request to meetings concerning military and security cooperation in the field of border security/border management; and/or EU support (financial support, technical support, training) for military and security operations and purchases in the field of border security/border management, for both bilateral and multilateral meetings, on political, expert and operational level, between 1 June 2016 to 24 April 2017, for Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia.

Please note that Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia do not fall within the competence of DG DEVCO. We understand that for what concerns these countries you have already received an answer from our colleagues in DG NEAR.

With regard to Eritrea and Ethiopia, DG DEVCO does not have any military and security cooperation in the field of border security/management. Therefore, no documents were found under our remit that would correspond to the description given in your application.

As for Mali, DG DEVCO implements a programme of support for enhanced security in the Mopti and Gao regions and for the management of border areas (PARSEC Mopti-Gao). Unfortunately, the meeting minutes and reports are confidential and cannot be shared; however, please find more information on the fact sheet enclosed and the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/projects/programme-support-enhanced-security-mopti-and-gao-regions-and-management-border-areas_en

Regarding Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Senegal, DG DEVCO implements a regional project (GAR-SI SAHEL (Groupes d’Action Rapides – Surveillance et Intervention au Sahel)) with a border management component, whose objective is to improve migration management and prevent and reduce forced displacement and irregular migration. More information on this project can be found in the document attached. The minutes of a meeting of the national pilot committee for Mauritania are also enclosed.
In **Niger**, DG DEVCO implements a project to reinforce the capacity of national police in border areas. While the minutes of meetings regarding this project are strictly confidential, the document attached provides further information.


DG DEVCO does not implement any projects with a border security/management in **Somalia**, therefore no information was found.

Last, regarding **Sudan**, please find attached the minutes of the coordination meetings held in Khartoum, as well as the EMLO monthly reports.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review its position. Such a confirmatory applications 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-5  
BERL 5/327  
B-1049 Bruxelles

Or by email to xxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx

Yours sincerely,

Olivier Luyckx