Subject: your e-mail request of 23 November 2018

Dear Mr Dohle,

I refer to your e-mail of 23 November representing the follow-up to the access to documents request registered under GESTED number 2018/3539.

As indicated by the Secretary General in his reply of 13 September 2018, your question concerning the European Commission position on what you call “right to a family” has to be treated as a request for information.

My reply follows the information already provided by DG DEVCO in relation to the access to documents request GESTDEM n. 2018/3528.

The European Commission has often underlined, in the context of its work on de-institutionalisation, the importance of preventing the separation of children from their families and of promoting the transition from institutional to community-based care (family or family-like solutions).

In the conference on the topic of quality care for children / de-institutionalization, which the European Commission organized together with the NGO Lumos in June 2018, reference was essentially made to the need to ensure that “all children across the world can realize their right to live safely within families” as opposed to living in institutions that are harmful to their development.

This general approach finds – where appropriate - a concrete implementation at national level and under the responsibility of national competent authorities, both in the European Union and in third countries.

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)

Tiina Astola