

TRANSPARENCY, ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND THE ARCHIVES

THE AIM

(article 1 TEU)

An ever closer union among the peoples of Europe with decisions taken as closely as possible to its citizens.

TRANSPARENCY PRINCIPLES

(article 15(3) TFEU)

When deliberating and voting on legislative acts the Council meets in public.

(article 15(3) TFEU)

The public has a right of access to documents of the Union's Institutions.

MEANS

- ❖ Council Rules of Procedure (Articles 7-10 and Annex II)
- ❖ Regulation 1049/2001 on access to documents
- ❖ Regulation 1700/2003 on opening the historical archives to the public

ACTIONS

OPENNESS

Through the Council's internet entry [Council LIVE](#), the public can:

- Watch open sessions LIVE,
- See voting results of legislative acts,
- Consult documents related to the public sessions,
- Consult background notes and press releases.

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

- Each EU Institution is required to set up a public register for documents.
- The **Council's Public Register** has been operational since 1999 at www.consilium.europa.eu
- All Council documents contain a reference in the register (with a few exceptions) and can be requested by the public.

ARCHIVES

- Each EU Institution is required to set up its historical archives. The Council Central Archives can be found at www.consilium.europa.eu.
- Documents which are over 30 years old are directly accessible to the public (exceptions apply).
- Each historical archives of the institutions has a reading room open to the public.



THE WORK

DG F 2 Transparency ensures the consistency in the implementation of the rules on transparency and access to documents. It also houses the archives of the Council. In this capacity, it is responsible for:

- ❖ coordinating the overall implementation of the openness of Council sessions;
- ❖ monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the policy of public access to Council documents;
- ❖ forming the collective memory of the Council and of other bodies for which the GSC is document depository, such as the European Councils, Intergovernmental Conferences (revisions of the Treaties/enlargements) and the European Convention.

DG F 2A is responsible for overseeing the displaying of voting results during Council meetings and its simultaneous transmission on the internet, and for the processing of initial and confirmatory requests for access to documents.

DG F 2B, the Central Archives, establish and preserve the collection of documents produced and received by the Council.

CONTACTS

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