



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
OFFICE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENTS

The Director

Brussels, 03. 10. 2017
PMO/VG

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Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem N° 2017/4832

Dear Sir,

We refer to your application for access to documents of 23 August 2017, by which you request, pursuant to Article 6(1) of Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, access to the total amount of expenses claims made by Commissioners [and MEPs] and their total value [...] for the fiscal year 2016.

We would like to inform you in this respect that external organisation Access Info Europe launched a campaign in January 2017 inviting citizens to submit, under Regulation 1049/2001, requests for access to information concerning Commissioners' mission expenses. The Commission subsequently received some 200 requests for access to documents as part of that campaign.

In settled case law, the EU Court of Justice has confirmed that, when treating access-to-documents requests under Regulation 1049/2001, the Commission needs to respect the principle of proportionality and ensure that the interest of the applicant for access is balanced against the workload resulting from the processing of the application for access in order to safeguard the interests of good administration.

Accordingly, in response to the Access Info Europe campaign, the Commission on 20 July 2017 processed and released 257 mission cost statements (covering all missions carried out in January and February 2016 by the respective Commissioners).

Given that your request seems to have been triggered by, and/or covers a similar subject matter as the above-mentioned campaign, and taking into account the principle of proportionality, we kindly refer you to that reply which Access Info Europe has published on its website, and of which you will find a copy annexed (Annexes 1, 2 and 3).

On a more general note, we would also like to inform you that the Commission undertook, once it has put in place the technical means to do so, to publish proactively Commissioners' mission costs on a bi-monthly basis, as reflected in its Draft Commission Decision on a Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission¹ of 12 September 2017.

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


Veronica Gaffey

Encl.: Annex 1 EAEFFCD5.msg
 Annex 2 C_2017_5273_F1_DECISION_LETTER_EN_V2_P1_944582.pdf
 Annex 3.zip

¹ C(2017) 6200.