



Case-handling Unit

Ms Veronica Quaix

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Strasbourg, 05/02/2021

Complaint 221/2021/DL

Subject of case: Admissibility of your complaint

Dear Ms Quaix,

On 1 February 2021, you submitted a complaint to the European Ombudsman concerning the European Commission's refusal to give public access to documents concerning travel expenses related to an official trip to Vietnam.

As a first step, I can inform you that your complaint is admissible.

The Commission has identified five documents pertaining to the scope of your request, namely the mission costs summary and four supporting documents¹. It refused to give public access to these documents, relying on the need to protect the privacy and the integrity of the individual². You argue that there is a necessity in the public interest to have the data transmitted and consider that the Commission should - at least - grant you with partial access.

On the Ombudsman's behalf and in an effort to deal with the matter as quickly as possible, I have already contacted the Commission. This is in line with the principle, set out in Regulation 1049/2001, that applications for access to documents should be handled promptly. At this stage, our focus will be on the documents to which the Commission refused to give public access.

We will get back to you as soon as we are in a position to update you on the progress of the case.

¹ - one supporting document concerning accommodation;
- one supporting document concerning transport;
- one supporting document concerning exchanges with travel agency;
- one other supporting document.
² Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation 1049/2001.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the responsible case handler, Ms Dorien Laermans, at the following telephone number: +32 2 28 33 441 or at dorien.laermans@ombudsman.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Tina Nilsson
Head of the Case-handling Unit