



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Secretariat-General

Task Force for Strategic Issues related to the UK Referendum
Director General

Brussels, 27 May 2016

By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Mr Niccolo Milanese
European Alternatives
Suite 501
The Nexus Building, Broadway
Letchworth Garden City, SG69BL
United Kingdom

Advance copy by email:
ask+request-2886-1bab415e@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your request for access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 - Gestdem 2016/2404

Dear Mr Milanese,

I refer to your email of 2 May 2016, registered on the same date under the above mentioned reference number, in which you make a request for access to documents.

You seek access to:

"documents pertaining to the statement in paragraph 2 of Annex VI of the European Council conclusions of 18-19 February and in particular

- *Documents containing information supplied by the United Kingdom as evidence of an exceptional situation;*
- *The Commission's own analysis based on labour market statistics and studies by third parties.*

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
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http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/secretariat_general/
jonathan.faul@ec.europa.eu

- *The preparatory documents leading the Commission to reach the conclusion that "the type of exceptional situation that the safeguard mechanism is intended to cover exists in the United Kingdom today"*
- *Any notes and evidence to back up the declaration supplied to the representatives of Member States in the European Council, their reactions and extracts from any minutes of meetings where the safeguard mechanism was discussed."*

Having examined your request, I regret to inform you that your application cannot be granted, as disclosure is prevented by an exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of Regulation 1049/2001.

Any documents related to this request refer to an ongoing decision-making process. The disclosure of such documents would undermine the ongoing decision-making process.

We have considered whether partial access could be granted to the documents requested. This is not possible because they are entirely covered by the exception.

We have examined whether an overriding public interest in disclosure exists but have not been able to identify such an interest.

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 Brussels
or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Faull', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jonathan Faull