



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

R - RESOURCES
R.2 - LEGAL ISSUES

Brussels, 10 AVR. 2017

By registered letter

Mr. **Mark Akkerman**
Anna Spenglerstraat 71
1054 NH Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Advance copy by email:
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Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2017/1580

Dear Mr. Akkerman,

I refer to your e-mail of 14 March 2017, in which you request access to minutes, reports of meetings and correspondence between DG NEAR officials and representatives of non-EU-countries in which the issue(s) of border security and/or border control and/or illegal immigration were discussed in the period between 1 April 2015 and today.

I further refer to your reply of 17 March 2017 to our request for clarification, in which you specify that you are interested in military and security cooperation in the field of border security/border management and in the EU support (financial support, technical support and trainings) for military and security operations and purchases in the field of border security/border management, for both bilateral and multilateral meetings, on political, expert and operational level, for Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia.

Please note that only Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia fall within competence of DG NEAR. We understand that for what concerns Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia and Sudan, you have approached our colleagues of DG DEVCO and DG HOME.

With regard to **Egypt, Libya and Morocco**, DG NEAR does not have any military and security cooperation in the field of border security/border management. Therefore, no documents were found under our remit that would correspond to the description given in your application.

As for **Tunisia**, DG NEAR has two ongoing programmes (which are public) and which can be accessed via the following web links:

- Annual Action Programme 2015 – security sector reform programme (as from page 42):

<https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/neighbourhood/pdf/key-documents/tunisia/20150731-aap-2015-tunisia-financing-commission-decision-20150730.pdf>

- Annual Action Programme 2014 – integrated border management and international protection (as from page 91):

<https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/neighbourhood/pdf/key-documents/aap-umbrella-2014-tunisia-financing-commission-decision-20141013.pdf>

In respect to the two above actions programmes, there have been exchanges, between officials of the EU institutions and bodies on the one hand and our Tunisian counterparts on the other hand, on these programmes and on security in general, but the European External Action Service and DG HOME were in the lead and can provide you with all the documentation that they have in their possession.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review its 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-5

BERL 5/327

B-1049 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,


Christos Komninos
Head of Unit