



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 of the TEU

Deputy Chief Negotiator

Brussels, 19/10/18
tf50(2018) 5967083

By registered mail with AR

Matt Hawkins
81a Endell Street
London
WC1H 9DX
United Kingdom

Advanced copy by e-mail:
ask+request-5972-
87747235@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your request registered under *Gestdem* reference No 2018/5142

Dear Mr Hawkins,

We refer to your e-mail dated 02/10/2018, registered on the same day under the above-mentioned reference number, by which you made a request pursuant to Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents¹.

You asked: Under the right of access to documents in the EU treaties, as developed in Regulation 1049/2001, I am requesting documents which contain the following information:

1. The number of minutes Michel Barnier has spent on the phone speaking to UK government officials since June 23rd 2016.

2. The number of individual meetings Michel Barnier has had with UK government cabinet ministers since June 23rd 2016.

3. The number of meetings Michel Barnier or a member of his staff has had with any of the following groups and individuals:

- Shanker Singham*
- Adam Smith Institute*
- Leave Means Leave*
- Leave.EU*
- The Bruges Group*
- The United Kingdom Independence Party*
- The Democratic Unionist Party*
- Get Britain Out*

¹ Official Journal L145 of 31.05.2001, p.43.

We have to inform you that there are no documents containing information on "the number of minutes Michel Barnier has spent on the phone speaking to UK government officials since June 23rd 2016".

As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution.

With respect to your request related to the meetings with UK government cabinet ministers and the above mentioned organisations, please note that all meetings held by Michel Barnier are published on the following webpages:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/brexit-negotiations/agenda_en

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyinitiative/meetings/meeting.do?host=fa02e4e1-d738-413e-8b4e-ed8381a90e86>

As is evident from his public agenda, Mr Barnier has been meeting a broad range of interlocutors from the EU27 and the United Kingdom who hold a wide variety of views on Brexit. Mr Barnier met Nigel Farage, MEP and the former leader of the UKIP (on 8 January 2018); Steven Woolfe, MEP; Lord Digby Jones, House of Lords; John Mills, Chairman of Labour Leave, John Longworth, Co-chairman of Leave Means Leave (on 10 January 2018) and Arlene Foster, Leader of the The Democratic Unionist Party (on 6 March and 9 October 2018).

There was no meeting between Mr Barnier or a member of his staff with Shanker Singham, Adam Smith Institute, Leave.EU, The Bruges Group and Get Britain Out.

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-C-1
BERL 5/282

B-1049 Bruxelles or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,



Sabine Weyand