



AFFGEN.2
Head of Division

Brussels, **24 MAI 2019**
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2019) 3452742

Ms Gisella Rojas

Subject: Your requests for access to documents of 1 and 2 April 2019
Our ref: 2019/069 and 070

Dear Ms Rojas,

Thank you for your requests for access to documents, which the EEAS has examined in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹.

After a search in the EEAS filing systems, the document management databases and archives, the EEAS has identified the documents as referenced below.

Your request 2019/69:

"Documents related to the meetings between Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See, and Federica Mogherini, Vice President of the EU Commission. Dates: 08/12/2016, 04/09/2017, 08/03/2018":

- a) I regret to inform you that regarding a possible meeting on 8 December 2016, the responsible division found no reports or records matching your search terms.
- b) We were informed that the meeting of 4 September 2017 was a bilateral meeting held in the margins of the Bled Strategic Forum. The following documents were identified:
 1. The briefing for HR/VP;
 2. The informal readout of the meeting;
- c) The meeting of 8 March 2018 was held in the context of the EU-Holy See Structured Dialogue on foreign policy and global issues. Three documents relating to the meeting were identified.
 3. The press release providing information on the second EU-Holy See Ministerial Structured Dialogue on foreign policy and global issues. The document can be directly downloaded via links provided below:
https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/41038/high-representativevice-president-mogherini-meets-archbishop-paul-richard-gallagher-holy-see_en
 4. The briefing for HR/VP for the second EU-Holy See Ministerial Structured Dialogue on foreign policy and global issues;
 5. The internal EEAS meeting report.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (hereafter the "Regulation").

Your request 2019/70:

"Documents related to the following meetings between Alain Paul Lebeaupin, Apostolic Nuncio, Head of the Mission of the Holy See to the European Union and at the time: - Federica Mogherini, Vice-President of the Commission, 09 January 2018 - Federica Mogherini, Vice-President of the Commission, 22 July 2015."

I wish to inform you that we identified the following documents:

6. The briefing for HR/VP for the meeting of January 2018 between HR/VP and the Apostolic Nuncio and Father Fabio Baggio, Under Secretary of the Holy See's Dicastery for the Integral Human Development (Migrants and Refugees Section);
7. HR/VP's Statement of 9 January 2018, which summarises the results of this meeting The document can be directly downloaded via the links provided below:
https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/38082/hrvp-federica-mogherini-meets-vatican-undersecretary-migration-fabio-baggio_en
8. The briefing for HR/VP for the meeting on July 2015 between HR/VP Mogherini and the Nuncio;
9. The informal readout of the meeting held on July 2015 (10 August 2015).

The EEAS has carefully examined the documents listed above. Documents 3 and 7 are public and made available to you via the links above.

The internal briefings (documents 1, 4, 6 and 8), aim to prepare the HR/VP for the meetings, are of internal nature and contain opinions and information on EU-Holy See relations, foreign policy and global issues.

Therefore, given the above, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose documents at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it could seriously undermine the EUs international relations and the decision-making process (as per Art 4(1)(a)3rd indent and Art 4(3)2nd indent of the Regulation 1049/2001).

The meeting report (document 5) and informal readouts (documents 2 and 9) are internal EEAS reports summarising the discussions which were held with the Holy See representatives during the meetings. A unilateral public disclosure of these documents could seriously harm our relations with Holy See, as discussions were conducted in the spirit of mutual trust and confidence.

Therefore, given the above, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose documents at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it could seriously undermine the EUs international relations (as per Art 4(1)(a)3rd indent of the Regulation 1049/2001).

Should you wish this position to be reviewed, you may confirm your initial request within 15 working days.

Yours sincerely,



Gabriele Visentin