



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate E - Single Market & Connectivity  
SG.E.3 - Brexit Preparedness

Brussels, 22/10/2019  
SG.E.3/DC

Dear Mr Taylor,

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2019/5590**

We refer to your e-mail dated 29 September 2019, registered by us on 2 October 2019 under the above reference number, in which you make a request for access to document containing information on:

- *“how a no-deal Brexit will impact the EU, its economy, its institutions and its remaining 27 Member States; and*
- *how likely the EU and Michel Barnier believe a no-deal Brexit is to occur.”*

We consider that your request covers documents held from 29 March 2017, date on which the United Kingdom notified its withdrawal from the EU under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), up to the date of your initial application, i.e. 2 October 2019.

As regards the first point of your request, in which you ask for documents containing information on the impact of a no-deal Brexit on the EU, its economy, its institutions and its remaining 27 Member States, we would like to refer you to our Brexit preparedness website: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness_en), which centralises all relevant documents in this regard, notably:

- Six Communications<sup>1</sup> on Brexit preparedness and contingency, in which the Commission identifies the main impacts of Brexit on the EU and its strategy to mitigate them;
- 102 Brexit preparedness notices<sup>2</sup>, in which the Commission informs concerned sectors factually about how to best prepare for the impact of Brexit on their activities;
- 18 Factsheets und Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents<sup>3</sup>, in which the Commission informs about the impact of Brexit on different stakeholders;

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/other-preparedness-activities\\_en#communications-of-the-european-commission](https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/other-preparedness-activities_en#communications-of-the-european-commission)

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/preparedness-notice\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/preparedness-notice_en)

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- 24 legislative and more than 60 non-legislative acts<sup>4</sup> prepared and adopted by the Commission to address the impact of Brexit.

Furthermore, we invite you to review the Commission's work in the framework of the European Semester, under which it regularly assesses the EU economy and publishes a full set of macroeconomic forecasts for the EU and its Member States, as well as interim forecasts updating GDP and inflation figures: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-economic-governance-monitoring-prevention-correction/european-semester>

As regards the second point of your request, in which you ask for documents containing information on how likely the EU and Michel Barnier believe a no-deal Brexit will occur, we regret to inform you that the Commission does not hold any documents that correspond to the description given in your application.

As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that Regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution.

Given that no such document, corresponding to the description of the second point of your application, are held by the Commission, the Commission is not in a position to fulfil your request.

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 this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretariat-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission  
Secretariat-General  
Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)  
BERL 7/076  
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours sincerely,



Dorte Christensen  
Head of Unit

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<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/factsheets-and-questions-and-answers\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/factsheets-and-questions-and-answers_en)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/legislative-initiatives-and-other-legal-acts\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/brexit/brexit-preparedness/legislative-initiatives-and-other-legal-acts_en)