



Council of the European Union

General Secretariat

Directorate-General Communication and Information - COMM

Directorate Information and Outreach

Information Services Unit / Transparency

Head of Unit

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Ms Anne Friel

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Ref. Access to documents requests with references 18/2318, 18/2412, 18/2516, 18/2518

Dear Ms Friel,

Thank you for the remarks contained in your letter of 28 February 2019.

We would like to emphasise that the GSC has always welcomed all constructive suggestions aimed at improving the quality of our transparency services.

As you know, the above-mentioned requests were submitted to the GSC between 23 November and 14 December 2018 and included the examination of 27 documents most of them being of particular technical complexity. This examination was carried out through internal consultations ensuring an in-depth assessment of the substantial content of each document, thus being, necessarily, a very time-consuming process. The GSC has therefore thoroughly examined all these documents in full consideration of the principles, conditions and limits laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, in particular, its Article 4. Nonetheless, we would like to point out that all the required documents were fully disclosed and sent to you. This process and its outcome is therefore consistent with the principles of good administration.

As regards the non-public documents you have mentioned in your letter (ST 14385/18 ADD 1 REV 1, 15445/18 INIT, 15624/18 INIT and 14649/18), we would like to remind that, in accordance with the rules governing access to documents, the public can have direct access to documents of the Council, notably, when they were issued as public documents or have been made public as a result of a previous request for access. In the case of the abovementioned documents, they were not available on 28 February 2019 as neither you nor any applicant have asked for their access until that date.

The GSC would like to thank you once again for your letter whose remarks are certainly a valuable contribution.

Yours sincerely,

Paulo VIDAL