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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Information
Subject:	Council's Open Data: Two new datasets available on the website - Information from the General Secretariat

New datasets available on the Council's Website and on the EU Open Data Portal

The General Secretariat of the Council has published two additional open datasets, containing:

- metadata on the Council's public register of documents,
- metadata on requests for access to documents.

The newly released data follow the conclusion, in April 2015, of the General Secretariat's Pilot Project on open data and the resulting publication of a dataset containing all Council votes on legislative acts since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009.

The three datasets are now available on the Council's website and on the EU Open data portal. See [Open data - Consilium](#) and [Open Data Portal](#).

The publication of the voting results dataset was widely welcomed by members of the public. It is regularly consulted by researchers and civil society organisations and it provides accurate and timely information about how Member States vote on the adoption of legislative acts.

The publication of the three datasets is in line with the Conclusions of the European Council of 24/25 October 2013¹ and the Council Conclusions on open, data-intensive and networked research as a driver for faster and wider innovation of May 2015.²

Dataset: Metadata of the Council's Public Register

The Council's public register of documents was set up in 1999. The register contains references to documents issued by the Council since that date (exceptions apply regarding classified documents). Public documents are also available for downloading through the register.

On average, around 25 000 documents are added to the register each year (original language). The information related to Council documents is public even if the contents of a document are not available to the public.

This dataset contains the following metadata on Council documents:

- publication status
- document category
- document number
- suffix
- title
- interinstitutional code

¹ Conclusions of the European Council (24/25 October 2013), paragraph 9 (EUCO 169/13).

² Council Conclusions on open, data-intensive and networked research as a driver for faster and wider innovation, adopted by the 3392nd meeting of the Council of the European Union (COMPETITIVENESS (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)) held in Brussels on 28 and 29 May 2015 (9360/15).

- subject matter
- originator (author)
- addressee(s)
- issue date
- meeting related to document
- document languages

Dataset: Metadata on requests for public access to Council documents

Each year the Council publishes an annual report on the implementation of regulation 1049/2001 on access to documents. The annual report contains statistical information on the requests for public access received by the Council. With the exception of personal data, information on such requests is public.

This dataset contains the following information on the requests for public access to documents received by the Council:

1. General information on the applicant (anonymous)
 - professional activity of applicant
 - geographic origin
2. General Information on the request
 - request number
 - type of request (initial request, confirmatory application)
 - date of request
 - deadline to reply
 - extended deadline to reply
 - date of reply
 - effort spent
 - follow-up
 - policy area(s)

3. Information on the requested documents

- publication status (public or not)
- type of reply
- document category
- document number

How to use the datasets

The three datasets are presented in machine readable format. It is possible to query the data via API (SPARQL endpoint) or to download each entire dataset (in zip format).

The data are free to use and reuse for commercial or non-commercial purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged.

The General Secretariat is currently developing search engines for the voting results and access to documents datasets which will allow users to browse through the information.

Information contained in these datasets is still be subject to change. The datasets are updated daily. The General Secretariat aims to keep this information accurate. If errors are brought to our attention, we will try to correct them.
