



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 3 August 2017
(OR. en)

11590/17

INF 140
API 96

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Information
Subject: Public access to documents
- Confirmatory application No 17c/01/17

Delegations will find attached the:

- request for access to documents sent to the General Secretariat of the Council on 17 June 2017 and registered on 19 June 2017 ([Annex 1](#));
- reply from the General Secretariat of the Council dated 1 August 2017 ([Annex 2](#));
- confirmatory application dated 1 August 2017 and registered on the same day ([Annex 3](#))

[E-mail message sent to access@consilium.europa.eu on 17 June 2017 - 16:31 using the electronic form available in the Register application]

Title/Gender:

Family Name: **DELETED**

First Name: **DELETED**

E-Mail: **DELETED**

Occupation: **DELETED**

On behalf of:

Address: **DELETED**

Telephone: **DELETED**

Mobile: **DELETED**

Fax: **DELETED**

Requested document(s): All records of Eurogroup discussions regarding the third assistance programme for Greece since January 2015, in particular the minutes of the meeting on 15 June 2017.



Council of the European Union

General Secretariat

Directorate-General Communication and Information

Knowledge Management

Transparency

Head of Unit

Brussels, 1 August 2017

Mr **DELETED**

E-Mail: **DELETED**

Ref. 17/1514-ws/ns

Request made on: 17.06.2017

Deadline extension: 10.07.2017

Dear Mr **DELETED**,

Thank you for your request for access to documents of the Council of the European Union.¹

With regard to the period from January 2015 to September 2015, this request is the same as your request of 13.01.2017, to which a reply was already sent by letter dated 24.02.2017 (ref. 17/0079-ws/jj); as the circumstances have not changed, we can only refer to our previous response.

The work of the Eurogroup is only recorded in the form of the president's summing-up letters. As we previously informed you, these documents give an account of the content of the discussions from the point of view of the president, but they are not minutes, as they are drawn up under the sole responsibility of the president and are not adopted by the Eurogroup.

¹ The General Secretariat of the Council has examined your request on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p.43) and the specific provisions concerning public access to Council documents set out in Annex II to the Council's Rules of Procedure (Council Decision No 2009/937/EU, OJ L 325, 11.12.2009, p.35).

For the period from February 2016 onwards, the requested documents can be found online at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/02/11-eurogroup-summing-up-letter-2016_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/03/07-eurogroup-summing-up-letter-2016_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/04/22-eurogroup-summing-up-letter_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/05/09-eurogroup-summing-up-letter_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/05/Summing-up-letter-by-Eurogroup-President-24-May-2016_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/09/summing-up-letter-September-2016_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/10/Summing-up-letter-Eurogroup-10-October-2016_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/11/Summing-up-letter,-Eurogroup-meeting-of-7-November-2016_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2016/12/05-eurogroup-summing-up-letter-pm_pdf/

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2017/01/Summing-up-letter,-Eurogroup-meeting-of-26-January-2017_pdf\(1\)/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2017/01/Summing-up-letter,-Eurogroup-meeting-of-26-January-2017_pdf(1)/)

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2017/02/20-eurogroup-summing-up-letter_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2017/03/20-eurogroup-summing-up-letter_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2017/04/Summing-up-letter-7-April_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2017/05/Summing-up-letter,-Eurogroup-meeting,-22-May-2017_pdf/

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eurogroup/2017/06/15-eurogroup-summing-up-letter_pdf/

The General Secretariat of the Council has also examined the summing-up letters for the meetings on the following dates: 09.11.2015, 23.11.2015, 07.12.2015 and 14.01.2016.

As the secretariat for the Eurogroup as regards these summing-up letters is provided by the Commission, the GSC therefore consulted the Commission.²

On the basis of a presentation by the Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council has concluded that disclosure of these documents would seriously undermine discussions in the Eurogroup and would be damaging to the monetary policy of the Union and the euro area in a difficult political and economic climate. As a consequence, the General Secretariat has to refuse access to these documents.³

We have also looked into the possibility of releasing parts of the documents.⁴ However, as the exceptions to the right of access apply to their entire content (particularly the parts concerning the third assistance programme for Greece, to which your request refers), the General Secretariat is also unable to give partial access.

You can ask the Council to review this decision within 15 working days of receiving this reply (confirmatory application).⁵

Yours sincerely,

Fernando PAULINO PEREIRA

² Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

³ Article 4(1)(a), fourth indent, and – in the absence of any evidence of an overriding public interest in disclosure – Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001.

⁴ Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

⁵ Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

Council documents on confirmatory applications are made available to the public. According to data protection rules at EU level (Regulation (EC) No 45/2001), if you make a confirmatory application your name will only appear in related documents if you have given your explicit consent.

[E-mail message sent to access@consilium.europa.eu on 1 August 2017 - 14:11]

From: **DELETED**
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 2:11 PM
To: SECRETARIAT DGF Access
Subject: Re: Ref. 17/1514-ws/ns

Dear Mr Pereira,

Thank you for your letter. I am writing to request that the decision be reviewed (confirmatory application).

Yours sincerely,

DELETED
