

**Letter from the Ombudsman to the Secretary-General of the Council of the EU closing her Strategic Initiative with the Council of the EU on the transparency of the Brexit negotiations (SI/3/2017/KR)**

Letter - 03/05/2019

Mr Jeppe Tranholm- Mikkelsen

Secretary- General

Council of the European Union

1048 Brussels

Belgium

Strasbourg, 03/05/2019

SI/3/2017/KR: Closing note on the Strategic Initiative with the Council of the EU on the transparency of the negotiations on the UK withdrawal from the EU ('Brexit')

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

In the context of the strategic initiative above, we have exchanged letters discussing proactively publishing information on the Brexit negotiations.

Based on this correspondence, and on our monitoring of the Council's publications, I have decided to close my strategic initiative with the following conclusion:

The EU has overall pursued a proactive approach anticipating citizens' and businesses' legitimate need for information on the Brexit negotiations. The level of transparency achieved by the EU thus far has been very high, when compared to for example international negotiations that the EU has conducted in the past.

Thank you for having engaged constructively on this matter.



Yours sincerely,

Emily O'Reilly

European Ombudsman