

## **Decision in case 1829/2019/EWM on the European Commission's failure to grant access to documents relating to meetings between Commissioner Jourová and stakeholders**

Decision

**Case 1829/2019/EWM - Opened on 04/10/2019 - Decision on 12/11/2019 - Institution concerned** European Commission ( Settled by the institution ) |

The case concerned a request for public access to documents related to four meetings between Commissioner Jourová and several external stakeholders. Having waited for a reply from the Commission for six months, the complainant turned to the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman closed the inquiry because after her intervention, the Commission replied to the complainant and granted partial access to the requested documents.

### **Background to the complaint**

1. On 5 April 2019, the complainant made a request for public access to documents related to four meetings between European Commissioner Věra Jourová and stakeholders.
2. On 2 May 2019, the Commission sent an acknowledgement of receipt.
3. On 14 May, the Commission informed the complainant that it would send a response to the request by 27 May 2019.
4. When the Commission failed to send the response on time, the complainant sent a reminder on 30 May 2019. On 7 June, the Commission apologised for the delay stating that it hoped that it “ *will be able to reply in the course of the next days* ”.
5. On 15 August 2019, the complainant sent another reminder to the Commission.
6. On 29 August 2019, after not receiving any reply to its initial request, the complainant filed a confirmatory application.
7. Not having received a reply, the complainant turned to the Ombudsman on 2 October 2019.



## The inquiry

8. The Ombudsman opened an inquiry into the complaint that the Commission has not replied to the complainant's request for public access to documents within the deadlines set out in Regulation 1049/2001. She suggested that the Commission should reply to the complainant by 18 October 2019.

9. The Commission replied to the complainant's request for access to documents with a letter signed on 18 October 2019. It granted partial access to all requested documents. [1]

10. The complainant thanked the Ombudsman for the assistance she provided.

## Conclusion

Based on the inquiry, the Ombudsman closes this case with the following conclusion:

**The Commission has settled the complaint by replying to the complainant and granting partial access to the requested documents.**

The complainant and the Commission will be informed of this decision.

Emily O'Reilly

European Ombudsman Strasbourg, 12/11/2019

[1] [https://www.asktheeu.org/en/request/jourova\\_meetings\\_2](https://www.asktheeu.org/en/request/jourova_meetings_2) [Link].