

The European Commission's refusal to grant public access to the final report of an audit regarding EU funds in Czechia and potential conflicts of interest

Case 720/2020/MIG - Opened on 30/04/2020 - Decision on 16/12/2020 - Institution concerned European Commission (Dropped by the complainant) |

The complainant sought public access to the final report of an audit by the European Commission concerning potential conflicts of interest in the allocation of EU funds in Czechia, notably regarding the firm Agrofert and the Czech prime minister. The Commission refused access, invoking an exception provided for in the EU's rules on public access to documents. It argued that disclosing the report could undermine the purpose of the audit. The Ombudsman asked the Commission to reply to a number of questions. After the Ombudsman received the Commission's reply and, subsequently, the complainant's comments thereon, the complainant withdrew his complaint. The Ombudsman therefore closed her inquiry.