

Council of the
European Union

SGS 20 / 004512

Brussels, 28. 10. 2020

LT 192/20

Ms Emily O'REILLY
The European Ombudsman
Avenue du Président Robert Schuman, 1
CS 30403
67001 STRASBOURG Cedex
FRANCE

Subject: Transparency of Council decision making during COVID-19 crisis
OI/4/2020/TE

Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 2020 regarding your inquiry concerning the above indicated issue.

In the letters, it was requested that your services be able to review, in accordance with Article 3(2) of the Ombudsman's Statute, the abovementioned documents.

I am pleased to inform you that your services may review the documents concerning following files:

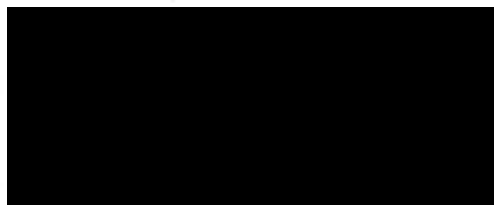
- the file relating to the adoption of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/672 of 19 May 2020 on the establishment of a European instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency (SURE) following the COVID-19 outbreak;
- the file relating to the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2020/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 2020 amending Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community in view of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the file relating to Council Decision on Macro-Financial Assistance to enlargement and neighborhood partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- the Council Decision on Confirmatory application 6/c/01/20 on access to documents WK 11963/19 and WK 14081/18;
- the Council Decision on the renewal of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India;

- document 6934/20 "Exceptional measures on the continuation of decision making in the Council";
- documentation available on the operation of three Working Parties (including agendas, meeting minutes, records of informal meetings of tele- or videoconferences and outcomes of written consultations) in the time period of 1 January to 30 June 2020 as regards:
 - the Working Party on Information;
 - the Audiovisual Working Party;
 - the Working Party on Aviation.

This agreement implies that members of your staff designated to consult the documents concerned may do so at their convenience in a secure environment in the General Secretariat of the Council. An acknowledgment will be signed by your staff member upon consultation in order to record the fact that the consultation has taken place in relation to the said documents. Notes and photocopies may be taken, as deemed necessary in the framework of the consultation, of the documents in question, on the understanding that Article 4(1) of the Statute requires you and your staff not to divulge any information or document obtained in the course of your inquiries.

Upon your acknowledgment of this letter and the acceptance of the procedure set out above, my responsible services will contact you in order to arrange for a convenient date and time for the consultation.

Yours faithfully,



M. CLAUSS
Chairman of the
Permanent Representatives Committee