

# COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 4 May 2012

9441/12

Interinstitutional File: 2008/0090 (COD)

**LIMITE** 

INF 75 API 56 JUR 253 CODEC 1153

#### **NOTE**

from: Presidency

to Permanent Representatives Committee (Part II)
No. prev. doc.: 7995/12 INF 48 API 33 JUR 163 CODEC 758
No. Cion prop.: 9200/08 INF 103 API 23 JUR 192 CODEC 946

+ COR 1

Subject: Recast of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European

Parliament, Council and Commission documents (first reading)

- Preparation of informal trilogues

#### I. Introduction

1. On 30 April 2008, the Commission presented a proposal for a recast of Regulation 1049/2001<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter referred to as 'the current Regulation'). During the last quarter of 2008, the Council Working Party on Information (WPI) examined the recast proposal at various meetings<sup>2</sup> but suspended discussions, as it became clear that the European Parliament was not finalising its position at first reading at that time<sup>3</sup>.

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Doc. 9200/08 + COR.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cf. doc. 5671/1/09 REV1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Cf. doc. 10859/1/09, pp. 1-3.

- 2. On 21 March 2011, the Commission presented a new proposal for a modification of the current Regulation<sup>4</sup>, with a view to aligning it to the new institutional scope of the right of public access in the Lisbon Treaty (Article 15(3) TFEU). The 2008 Commission proposal was not withdrawn. On 16 September 2011, while awaiting the European Parliament position, the WPI agreed a compromise text on the 2011 Commission proposal<sup>5</sup>.
- 3. On 15 December 2011, the European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the 2008 Commission proposal for a recast of the Regulation. It considered that the procedure relating to the 2011 Commission proposal had lapsed as a result of the European Parliament incorporation of the contents of the 2011 proposal into the procedure relating to the 2008 proposal.

### II. Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues

- 4. With a view to achieving a result on this complex file and to reaching a pre-negotiated Council position at first reading by mid 2012, the Presidency proposed<sup>8</sup> an approach focused on nine core issues on which the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission could agree and where progress in the area of transparency could be made.
- 5. Since January 2012, the <u>WPI</u> examined the Commission proposals from 2008 and 2011 in the light of the European Parliament position at first reading in six meetings<sup>9</sup>, focusing on the nine issues identified by the Presidency.

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Doc. 8261/1/11 REV1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Doc. 14549/11.

<sup>6</sup> Doc. 18436/11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See point 2 of the Annex to doc. 18436/11 (p. 9).

<sup>8</sup> See in particular docs. 6439/12 and 7995/12.

The meetings took place on 20 January, 10 February, 9 and 27 March, 13 and 27 April.

- 6. The nine core issues are (with reference to articles of the current Regulation)<sup>10</sup>:
  - In Article 12: direct access to documents, in particular in the context of legislative transparency;
  - In Articles 2(5a) and 2(5b), Article 4a and Articles 6(3), 7(1) and 8(1): the scope of the Regulation, in particular the question of block exemptions for particular types of documents versus general presumptions against release of certain types of documents versus procedural changes to better protect specific areas of activity;
  - In Article 4(1)(b): the balance between the fundamental rights of access to documents and the protection of personal data and privacy;
  - In Article 3a: when a document becomes subject to the Regulation;
  - In Article 3(b), Article 4(5), Articles 7(1a) and 8(1a): the treatment of documents originating from the Member States, to which access is requested;
  - In Article 4(1)(a) 5th indent, Article 2(6), Article 4(3a): the alignment with the Århus Convention<sup>11</sup> and Regulation<sup>12</sup> on access to environmental information.
  - In Article 4(2) 3rd indent: the protection of the objectivity and impartiality of selection procedures;
  - In Articles 1(a), 2(3) and 3(aa): the expansion of the institutional scope of the Regulation in line with Lisbon Treaty<sup>13</sup>; and
  - In Article 15: the introduction of access to documents officers in the institutions.
- 7. As the Commission considers some of the changes resulting from the discussions in the WPI to be outside of the scope of its 2008 proposal, it would need to modify its original proposal if those elements were to be part of the final compromise package. The Commission has signalled its openness to consider such modifications in due course.

<sup>13</sup> See doc. 14549/11.

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See fourth column of the table at Annex.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters done at Århus, Denmark, on 25 June 1998.

Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on the application of the provisions of the Århus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies (OJ L 264, 25.9.2006, p. 13.).

8. A key discussion in the WPI has been the question of the scope of the Regulation and the principle of individual examination. A large majority of Member States are in favour of exempting documents relating to investigations from the scope of the Regulation while the investigations are pending and of exempting documents submitted to courts by parties other than the institutions on a permanent basis. This majority also supports the introduction of a general presumption of non-disclosure of legal advice, if it relates to an on-going decision-making process or to a question not yet decided by the Court of Justice. A minority of Member States on the other hand believes that the principle of individual examination is a core feature in the current Regulation ensuring the widest possible access to documents, as prescribed in the Treaty framework. This minority is convinced that the current exceptions provide adequate protection for the documents in question.

Another important point has been the question of the <u>definition of a document</u>. <u>Some</u> <u>delegations</u> felt that the current wide definition should be retained, while others preferred making it more explicit, thus providing further guidance to those applying for access to documents. The compromise text maintains the current wide definition and provides guidance in a separate article for when documents become subject to the Regulation.

A third difficult discussion has been the question of <u>transparency in the legislative process</u>. <u>Some Member States</u> stressed that implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and the Charter of Fundamental Rights would entail more access to documents in the legislative process, including legal advice in this regard. These Member States were concerned that the general tendency of the discussions was in fact going in a less transparent direction than what would result from the Treaty framework.

Other important items have been the question of <u>Member State documents</u> as well as the <u>balance between access to documents and the protection of personal data</u>; items for which satisfactory results seem to have been found.

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- 9. The Presidency decided to submit the compromise text that emerged from the discussions in the WPI to COREPER with a view to adopting a negotiating mandate for the start of informal trilogues, noting that a minority of delegations could not agree to all the changes proposed. The compromise text from the WPI includes all the articles which are covered by the approach proposed by the Presidency (cf. point 6. above). The remaining articles, which have not been discussed by the WPI, are so far left as they are in the current Regulation, subject to later adjustments resulting from either adaptations required by the Lisbon Treaty or otherwise agreed in the course of forthcoming negotiations. The recitals will be examined at a later stage.
- 10. COREPER will find in the Annex a four columns document containing in its fourth column the draft text of the mandate for the start of informal trilogues. The document is in the form of a synoptic overview of the texts related to the recast of the Regulation:
  - The first column contains the text of the current Regulation;
  - The second column shows the Commission recast proposal from 2008 and includes in bold the provisions of the 2011 Commission proposal;
  - The third column contains the amendments approved by the European Parliament on 15 December 2011;
  - The fourth column contains the compromise text as it emerged from the discussions in the WPI. New text compared to the current Regulation is indicated by <u>underlining</u> and **bold**; deleted text is indicated by (...).

#### III. Conclusion

11. <u>The Presidency</u> invites COREPER to endorse the compromise text, as set out in the fourth column of the document at Annex, with a view to mandate the Presidency to start trilogues on the recast of the Regulation with the European Parliament.

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Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents	REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents defining the general principles and limits governing the right of access to documents of Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies [Am. 1]	REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL regarding public access to () documents of the Union's institutions, bodies, offices and agencies
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 255(2) thereof, Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>15</sup> , Acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty <sup>16</sup> ,	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,  Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 255(2) thereof,  Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>17</sup> ,  Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 251 of the Treaty <sup>18</sup> ,	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 15 thereof, Having regard to the proposal from the Commission, Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure <sup>19</sup> ,	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 15(3) thereof, Having regard to the proposal from the Commission 20, Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

<sup>14</sup> Paragraphs in **bold** in this column correspond to the Commission 2011 proposal.

<sup>15</sup> OJ C 177E, 27.6.2000, p. 70.

Opinion of the European Parliament of 3 May 2001 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and Council Decision of 28 May 2001. 16

<sup>17</sup> OJ C , , p. .

<sup>18</sup> OJ C , , p. .

<sup>19</sup> Position of the European Parliament of 15 December 2011.

<sup>20</sup> OJ C 177E, 27.6.2000, p. 70.

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues		
	[RECITALS WILL BE EXAMINED AT A LATER STAGE]				

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
Article 1	Article 1	Article 1	Article 1
Purpose	Purpose	Purpose	Purpose
The purpose of this Regulation is:	The purpose of this Regulation is:	The purpose of this Regulation is:	The purpose of this Regulation is:
(a) to define the principles, conditions and limits on grounds of public or private interest governing the right of access to European Parliament, Council and Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the institutions") documents provided for in Article 255 of the EC Treaty in such a way as to ensure the widest possible access to documents,  (b) to establish rules ensuring the easiest possible exercise of this right, and  (c) to promote good administrative practice on access to documents.	(a) to define the principles, conditions and limits on grounds of public or private interest governing the right of access to European Parliament, Council and Commission (hereinafter referred to as «the institutions») documents provided for in Article 255 of the EC Treaty in such a way as to ensure ⊠ grant the public ⊠ the widest possible access to ⊠ such ⊠ documents ::  (a) to define the principles, conditions and limits on grounds of public or private interest governing the right of public access to documents of the institutions of the European Union, as defined in Article 3 (c), provided for in Article 15(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in such a way as to grant the public the widest possible access to documents,  (b) to establish rules ensuring the easiest possible exercise of this right and the public the widest possible access to documents,  (c) to promote good administrative	(a) to define, in accordance with Article 15 TFEU, the principles, conditions and limits on grounds of public or private interest governing the right of access to European Parliament, Council and Commission (hereinafter referred to as «the institutions») documents provided for in Article 255 of the EC Treaty in such a way asof Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, in such a way as to grant the public the widest possible access to such documents; [Am. 26]  (b) to establish rules ensuring the easiest possible exercise of this right;  (c) to promote transparent and good administrative practice on in order to improve access to documents, and in particular the overall goals of greater transparency, accountability, and democracy.  [Am. 27]	(a) to define the principles, conditions and limits on grounds of public or private interest governing the right of access to () documents of the Union's institutions provided for in Article 15(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) in such a way as to ensure the widest possible access to documents,  (b) to establish rules ensuring the easiest possible exercise of this right, and  (c) to promote good administrative practice on access to documents.
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<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
	practice on access to documents.		mormar enogues
Article 2  Beneficiaries and scope	Article 2  Beneficiaries and scope	Article 2 Beneficiaries and scope	Article 2 Beneficiaries and scope
<ol> <li>Any citizen of the Union, and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State, has a right of access to documents of the institutions, subject to the principles, conditions and limits defined in this Regulation.</li> <li>The institutions may, subject to the same principles, conditions and limits, grant access to documents to any natural or legal person not residing or not having its registered office in a Member State.</li> <li>This Regulation shall apply to all documents held by an institution, that is to say, documents drawn up or received by it and in its possession, in all areas of activity of the European Union.</li> <li>Without prejudice to Articles 4 and 9, documents shall be made accessible to the public either following a written application or directly in electronic form or through a register. In particular, documents drawn up or received in the course of a legislative procedure shall be made directly accessible in accordance with Article 12.</li> </ol>	1. Any eitizen of the Union, and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State, has ⋈ shall have ⋈ a right of access to documents of the institutions, subject to the principles, conditions and limits defined in this Regulation.  2. The institutions may, subject to the same principles, conditions and limits, grant access to documents to any natural or legal person not residing or not having its registered office in a Member State.  32. This Regulation shall apply to all documents held by an institution, that is to say ⋈ namely ⋈, documents drawn up or received by it and in its possession ⋈ concerning a matter relating to the policies, activities and decisions falling within its sphere of responsibility ⋈, in all areas of activity of the European Union.  3. This Regulation shall apply to all documents held by an institution, as defined in Article 3 (c), that is to say, documents drawn up or received by it and in its possession, in all areas of	1. Any natural or legal person or any association of legal or natural persons shall have a right of access to documents of the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, subject to the principles, conditions and limits defined in this Regulation.  2. This Regulation shall apply to all documents held by an institution, namely, documents drawn up or received by it and in its possession concerning a matter relating to the policies, activities and decisions falling within its sphere of responsibility, in all areas of activity of the European Union.  3. Without prejudice to Articles 4 and 9, documents shall be made accessible to the public either following a written application or directly in electronic form or through a register. In particular, documents drawn up or received in the course of a legislative procedure shall be made directly accessible in accordance with Article 12.  4. Sensitive documents as defined in	<ol> <li>Any citizen of the Union, and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State, has a right of access to documents of the institutions, subject to the principles, conditions and limits defined in this Regulation.</li> <li>The institutions may, subject to the same principles, conditions and limits, grant access to documents to any natural or legal person not residing or not having its registered office in a Member State.</li> <li>This Regulation shall apply to all documents held by an institution, namely, documents drawn up or received by it and in its possession concerning a matter relating to the policies, activities and decisions falling within the institution's sphere of responsibility, in all areas of activity of the European Union. As regards the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank, this Regulation shall apply only when exercising</li> </ol>
12.		4. Sensitive documents as defined in	shall apply only when exercising their administrative tasks.

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- 5. Sensitive documents as defined in Article 9(1) shall be subject to special treatment in accordance with that Article.
- 6. This Regulation shall be without prejudice to rights of public access to documents held by the institutions which might follow from instruments of international law or acts of the institutions implementing them.

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activity of the European Union. As regards the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank, this Regulation shall apply only when they exercise their administrative tasks.

↓ 1049/20 01

- 43. Without prejudice to Articles 4 and 9 documents shall be made accessible to the public either following a written application or directly in electronic form or through a register. In particular, documents drawn up or received in the course of a legislative procedure shall be made directly accessible in accordance with Article 12.
- <u>\$4</u>. Sensitive documents as defined in Article 9(1) shall be subject to special treatment in accordance with that Article.

□ new

- 5. This Regulation shall not apply to documents submitted to Courts by parties other than the institutions.
- 6. Without prejudice to specific rights of access for interested parties established by EC law, documents forming part of the administrative file of an investigation or of proceedings concerning an act of individual scope shall not be accessible

### **European Parliament position**

Article 9(1) shall be subject to special treatment in accordance with that Article.

- 5. This Regulation shall not apply to documents submitted to Courts by parties other than the institutions.
- 6. Without prejudice to specific rights of access for interested parties established by EC law, documents forming part of the administrative file of an investigation or of proceedings concerning an act of individual scope shall not be accessible to the public until the investigation has been closed or the act has become definitive.

  Documents containing information gathered or obtained from natural or legal persons by an institution in the framework of such investigations shall not be accessible to the public.
- 7. This Regulation shall be without prejudice to rights of public access to documents held by the institutions which might follow from instruments of international law or acts of the institutions implementing them.

  [Am. 28]

Article 2a

Scope

1. This Regulation shall apply to all

# Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues

- 4. Without prejudice to Articles 4, 4a and 9, documents shall be made accessible to the public either following a written application or directly in electronic form or through a register. In particular, documents drawn up or received in the course of a legislative procedure shall be made directly accessible in accordance with Article 12.
- 5. Sensitive documents as defined in Article 9(1) shall be subject to special treatment in accordance with that Article.
- 5a. This Regulation shall not apply to documents submitted to Courts by parties other than the institutions.
- 5b. Without prejudice to specific rights of access for interested parties established by Union law, documents forming part of the administrative file of an investigation or of proceedings concerning an act of individual scope shall not be accessible to the public until the investigation has been closed or the act has become definitive. Documents containing information gathered or obtained from natural or legal persons by an

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
	to the public until the investigation has been closed or the act has become definitive. Documents containing information gathered or obtained from natural or legal persons by an institution in the framework of such investigations shall not be accessible to the public.  \$\frac{\left{1049/20}}{01}\$  \$\frac{\left{67}}{01}\$. This Regulation shall be without prejudice to rights of public access to documents held by the institutions which might follow from instruments of international law or acts of the institutions implementing them.	documents held by a Union institution, body, office and agency, that is to say documents drawn up or received by it and in its possession, in all areas of activity of the Union. This Regulation shall apply to the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank, only in the course of the performance of their administrative tasks.  2. Documents shall be made accessible to the public either in electronic form in the Official Journal of the European Union, or in an official register of an institution, body, office or agency, or following a written application. The documents drawn up or received in the course of a legislative procedure shall be made directly accessible in accordance with Article 12.  3. This Regulation shall be without prejudice to enhanced rights of public access to documents held by the institutions, bodies, offices or agencies which might derive from	institution in the framework of such investigations shall not be accessible to the public.  6. This Regulation shall be without prejudice to rights of public access to documents held by the institutions which might follow from:  a) the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters done at Århus, Denmark, on 25 June 1998 and Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 <sup>21</sup> ; or b) other instruments of international law or acts of the institutions implementing them.

Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 September 2006 on the application of the provisions of the Århus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies (OJ L 264, 25.9.2006, p. 13.).

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<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
		instruments of international law or acts of the institutions implementing them or by the law of the Member States. [Am. 29]	
Article 3	Article 3	Article 3	Article 3
Definitions	Definitions	Definitions	Definitions
For the purpose of this Regulation:	For the purpose of this Regulation:	For the purpose of this Regulation:	For the purpose of this Regulation:
<ul> <li>(a) "document" shall mean any content whatever its medium (written on paper or stored in electronic form or as a sound, visual or audiovisual recording) concerning a matter relating to the policies, activities and decisions falling within the institution's sphere of responsibility;</li> <li>(b) "third party" shall mean any natural or legal person, or any entity outside the institution concerned, including the Member States, other Community or non-Community institutions and bodies and third countries.</li> </ul>		(a) "document" meansshall mean any data content whatever its medium (written on paper or stored in electronic form or as a sound, visual or audiovisual recording) drawn up by an institution and formally transmitted to one or more recipients or otherwise registered, or received by an institution; data concerning a matter falling within the sphere of responsibility of a Union institution, body, office or agency. Data contained in electronic storage, processing and retrieval systems, are documents including external systems used for the work of that institution, body, office or agency, constitute a document, notably if they can be extracted in the form of a printout or electronic format copy using any reasonably the available tools for the exploitation of the system concerned. An institution, body, office or agency that intends to	(a) "document" means any content whatever its medium (written on paper or stored in electronic form or as a sound, visual or audiovisual recording), including data contained in electronic storage, processing and retrieval systems that is held by an institution, if they can be extracted using the available tools for the exploitation of the system;  (aa) «institutions» means institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union, including the European External Action Service.  (b) "third party" means any natural or legal person, or any entity outside the institution concerned, including the Member States, other Union or non-Union institutions () and third countries. Member States are not considered as third parties when their representatives act in their

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
	institutions and bodies and third countries.  (c) 'institutions' shall mean institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the European Union, including the European External Action Service.	create a new electronic storage system, or to substantially change an existing system, shall evaluate the likely impact on the right of access, ensure that the right of access is guaranteed as a fundamental right, and act so as to promote the objective of transparency. The functions for the retrieval of information stored in electronic storage systems shall be adapted in order to satisfy requests from the public;	capacity as members of the Council or when their delegates act in the framework of the Council decision-making process or of the control of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers <sup>22</sup> .
		(aa) "classified documents" shall mean documents which have been totally or partially classified in accordance with Article 3a(1);	
		(ab) "legislative act" shall include documents drawn up or received in the course of legislative procedures for the adoption of legislative acts, including measures of general application under delegated and implementing powers, and acts of general application which are legally binding in or on the Member States;	
		(ac) ''administrative tasks'' shall mean measures dealing with the organisational, administrative or budgetary matters of the	

[See doc. 6898/02 and doc. 6203/02; see also Case T-111/00 BAT International v. Commission.]

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Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
		institution, body, office or agency concerned;	
		(ad) "archive system" shall mean a tool or a procedure of the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies for managing in a structured way the filing of all their documents referring to an ongoing or recently concluded procedure;	
		(ae) "historical archives" shall mean that part of the archives of the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies which has been selected, on the terms laid down in point (a), for permanent preservation.	
		A detailed list of all the categories of acts covered by the definitions in points (a) to (ac) shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and on the internet sites of the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, which shall also agree and publish their common criteria for archiving;	
		(b) "third party" means hall mean any natural or legal person, or any entity outside the institution, body, office or agency concerned, including the Member States, other Community Union or non-Community Union institutions	
		and bodies and third countries. [Am.	

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
		30]	
			Article 3a
			Documents subject to this Regulation
			A document becomes subject to this Regulation:  1) when it has been drawn up by an institution and either formally transmitted to one or more recipients, submitted for filing or registration, approved by the competent official, or otherwise completed for the purposes for which it was intended, or  2) when it has been received by an institution.
Article 4	Article 4	[] Article 4	[Not part of the Presidency's approach]  Article 4
Exceptions	Exceptions	Exceptions	Exceptions
<ol> <li>The institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of:</li> <li>(a) the public interest as regards:         <ul> <li>public security,</li> <li>defence and military matters,</li> <li>international relations,</li> <li>the financial, monetary or economic policy of the Community or a Member</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	1. The institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of: (a) the public interest as regards:  (a) public security ⇒ including the safety of natural or legal persons ⇔ ; (b) defence and military matters;	1. The institutions, bodies, offices and agencies shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards:  (a) public security including the safety of natural or legal persons of the Union or of one or more of the Member States; [Am. 32]  (b) defence and military matters;	<ol> <li>The institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of:</li> <li>(a) the public interest as regards:         <ul> <li>public security,</li> <li>defence and military matters,</li> <li>international relations,</li> <li>the financial, monetary or economic policy of the <u>Union</u> or a Member State,</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	<b>European Parliament position</b>	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
State;	(c) international relations <u>;</u>	(c) international relations;	- the environment, such as breeding
(b) privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with Community legislation regarding the protection of personal data.	(d) the financial, monetary or economic policy of the Community or a Member State;	(d) the financial, monetary or economic policy of the Community Union or a Member State; [Am. 33]	sites of rare species;  (b) privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance
2. The institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of:	(e) the environment, such as breeding sites of rare species.	(e) the environment, such as breeding sites of rare species.	with <u>Union</u> legislation regarding the protection of personal data. <sup>23</sup>
<ul> <li>commercial interests of a natural or legal person, including intellectual property,</li> </ul>	(b) privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance	2. The institutions, <i>bodies</i> , <i>offices</i> and agencies shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would	In its assessment of whether the exception in point (b) applies, the institution shall take into account: i) whether the individual was acting
<ul><li>court proceedings and legal advice,</li><li>the purpose of inspections,</li></ul>	with Community legislation regarding the protection of personal data.	undermine the protection of: [Am. 34]	in the framework of professional activities in relation to Union
investigations and audits, unless there is an overriding public	2. The institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would	(a) commercial interests of a natural or legal person;	matters; and ii) the nature of the individual's role
interest in disclosure.	undermine the protection of:	(b) intellectual property rights;	and responsibilities.
3. Access to a document, drawn up by an institution for internal use or	(a) commercial interests of a natural or legal person; including intellectual property,	(c) legal advice and court, arbitration and dispute settlement proceedings; relating to court proceedings; [Am. 35]	2. The institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of:
received by an institution, which relates to a matter where the decision has not been taken by the institution, shall be refused if disclosure of the document	(b) intellectual property rights; ↓ 1049/2001 (adapted)	(d) the purpose of inspections, investigations and audits;	<ul> <li>commercial interests of a natural or legal person, including intellectual property,</li> </ul>
would seriously undermine the	⇒ new	(e) the objectivity and impartiality of selection <i>public procurement</i>	– court proceedings and legal advice,

<sup>[</sup>A recital will also be included as follows: 'The protection of personal data and the right of access to documents are both fundamental rights in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and shall be exercised under the conditions and limits defined by the Treaties and can only be limited subject to the principle of proportionality, and only if such limitations are necessary and genuinely meet objectives of general interest recognised by the Union or the need to protect the rights and freedoms of others.']

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institution's decision-making process, unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure.

Access to a document containing opinions for internal use as part of deliberations and preliminary consultations within the institution concerned shall be refused even after the decision has been taken if disclosure of the document would seriously undermine the institution's decision-making process, unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure.

- 4. As regards third-party documents, the institution shall consult the third party with a view to assessing whether an exception in paragraph 1 or 2 is applicable, unless it is clear that the document shall or shall not be disclosed.
- 5. A Member State may request the institution not to disclose a document originating from that Member State without its prior agreement.
- 6. If only parts of the requested document are covered by any of the exceptions, the remaining parts of the document shall be released.
- 7. The exceptions as laid down in paragraphs 1 to 3 shall only apply for the period during which protection is

## Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 14

- (c)  $\boxtimes$  legal advice and  $\boxtimes$  court proceedings  $\Rightarrow$ , arbitration and dispute settlement proceedings  $\Leftarrow$  and  $\equiv$ :
- (d) the purpose of inspections, investigations and audits:

new

(e) the objectivity and impartiality of selection procedures.

unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure.

- 3. Access to ⊠ the following documents ⊠ a document, drawn up by an institution for internal use or received by an institution, which relates to a matter where the decision has not been taken by the institution, shall be refused if ⊠ their ⊠ disclosure of the document would seriously undermine the institution's decision-making process ⊠ of the institutions: ⊠, unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure.
- (a) documents relating to a matter where the decision has not been taken:
- (b) documents (Access to a document containing opinions for internal use as part of deliberations and

### **European Parliament position**

procedures until a decision has been taken by the contracting institution, body, office or agency concerned, or the proceedings of a selection board leading to the recruitment of staff until a decision has been taken by the appointing authority. [Am. 36]

- 3. Access to the following documents drawn up by an institution, body, office or agency for internal use or received by it relating to a matter where it has not yet taken a decision shall be refused only if their disclosure would, due to their content and the objective circumstances of the situation, manifestly and seriously undermine the decision-making process. of the institutions:
- (a) documents relating to a matter where the decision has not been taken:
- (b) documents containing opinions for internal use as part of deliberations and preliminary consultations within the institutions concerned, even after the decision has been taken. [Am. 37]
- 4. The exceptions under paragraphs (2) and (3) shall apply unless there is an When balancing the public interest in disclosure under

# Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues

- the purpose of inspections, investigations and audits,
- \_ the objectivity and impartiality of selection procedures for the award of contracts or grants under the Financial Regulation, or involving the comparative assessment of the merits of candidates or members of the staff of an institution, or involving the assessment of the merits of candidates for public offices,

<u>(...)</u>.

3. Access to a document, drawn up by an institution for internal use or received by an institution, which relates to a matter where the decision has not been taken by the institution, shall be refused if disclosure of the document would seriously undermine the institution's decision-making process (...).

Access to a document containing opinions for internal use as part of deliberations and preliminary consultations within the institution concerned shall be refused even after the decision has been taken if disclosure of the document would

justified on the basis of the content of the document. The exceptions may apply for a maximum period of 30 years. In the case of documents covered by the exceptions relating to privacy or commercial interests and in the case of sensitive documents, the exceptions may, if necessary, continue to apply after this period.

# Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 14

preliminary consultations within the institutions concerned shall be refused even after the decision has been taken if disclosure of the document would seriously undermine the institution's decision-making process, unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure.

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5. Names, titles and functions of public office holders, civil servants and interest representatives in relation with their professional activities shall be disclosed unless, given the particular circumstances, disclosure would adversely affect the persons concerned. Other personal data shall be disclosed in accordance with the conditions regarding lawful processing of such data laid down in EC legislation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.

↓ 1049/2001 (adapted)

### **European Parliament position**

paragraphs (1) to (3), an overriding public interest in disclosure. As regards paragraph 2(a) an overriding public interest in disclosure shall be deemed to exist where the information document requested relates to *the protection of* fundamental rights and the rule of law, the sound management of public funds, or the right to live in a healthy environment, including in *terms of* emissions into the environment. An institution, body, office or agency invoking one of the exceptions must make an objective and individual assessment and show that the risk to the interest protected is foreseeable and not purely hypothetical, and define how access to the document in question could specifically and effectively undermine the interest protected. [Am. 38]

- 4a. Documents the disclosure of which would pose a risk to environmental protection, such as those relating to the breeding sites of rare species, shall only be disclosed in conformity with Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006.

  [Am. 39]
- 5. Names, titles and functions of public office holders, civil servants

# Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues

seriously undermine the institution's decision-making process (...).

- 3a. The exceptions under paragraphs (2) and (3) shall apply unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure.
- 3b. The exception regarding the protection of legal advice under the second indent of paragraph (2) shall apply under the conditions laid down in Article 4a.
- 4. As regards third-party documents, the institution shall consult the third party with a view to assessing whether an exception in paragraph 1 or 2 is applicable, unless it is clear that the document shall or shall not be disclosed.
- 5. A Member State may request the institution not to disclose a document originating from that Member State without its prior agreement, setting out the reasons for its objection by reference to the exceptions referred to in Article 4. In explaining why a particular exception applies, a Member State may refer to any relevant provision or rule in its national law.

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
	6. If only parts of the requested document are covered by any of the exceptions, the remaining parts of the document shall be released.  7. The exceptions as laid down in paragraphs 1 to 3 this Article shall only apply for the period during which protection is justified on the basis of the content of the document. The exceptions may apply for a maximum period of 30 years. In the case of documents covered by the exceptions relating to privacy the protection of personal data and or commercial interests and in the case of sensitive documents, the exceptions may, if necessary, continue to apply after this period.	and interest representatives in relation with their professional activities shall be disclosed unless, given the particular circumstances, disclosure would adversely affect the persons concerned. Other personal data shall be disclosed in accordance with the conditions regarding lawful processing of such data laid down in EC legislation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data. Personal data shall not be disclosed if such disclosure would harm the privacy or the integrity of the person concerned. Such harm shall not be deemed to be caused:  - if the data relate solely to the professional activities of the person concerned unless, given the particular circumstances, there is reason to assume that disclosure would adversely affect that person;  - if the data relate solely to a public person unless, given the particular circumstances, there is reason to assume that disclosure would adversely affect that person or other persons connected with him or her;  - if the data have already been published with the consent of the person concerned.	6. If only parts of the requested document are covered by any of the exceptions, the remaining parts of the document shall be released.  7. The exceptions as laid down in paragraphs 1 to 3 shall only apply for the period during which protection is justified on the basis of the content of the document. The exceptions may apply for a maximum period of 30 years. In the case of documents covered by the exceptions relating to privacy or commercial interests and in the case of sensitive documents, the exceptions may, if necessary, continue to apply after this period.

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
		Personal data shall nevertheless be disclosed if an overriding public interest requires disclosure. In such a case, the institution, body, office or agency concerned shall be required to specify the public interest. It shall give reasons why, in the specific case, the public interest outweighs the interests of the person concerned.	
		Where an institution, body, office or agency refuses access to a document on the basis of this paragraph, it shall consider whether it is possible to grant partial access to that document. [Am. 40]	
		6. If only parts of the requested document are covered by any of the exceptions, the remaining parts of the document shall be released.	
		7. The exceptions as laid down in this Article shall only apply for the period during which protection is justified on the basis of the content of the document. not apply to documents transmitted within the framework of procedures leading to a legislative	
		act or delegated or implementing act of general application. Nor shall the exceptions apply to documents provided to institutions, bodies, offices and agencies for the purpose of influencing policy-making by	

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>14</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
		lobbyists and other interested	
		parties. In the case of documents	
		covered by the exceptions relating to	
		-the protection of personal data or	
		commercial interests and in the case	
		of sensitive documents, The	
		exceptions <del>may if necessary,</del>	
		continue to apply after this period.	
		shall only apply for as long as is	
		justified by the content of the	
		document and in any event for a	
		maximum period of 30 years. [Am.	
		41]	
		7a. An institution, body, office or agency may grant privileged access to the documents covered by paragraphs (1) to (3) for the purpose of research. If privileged access is	
		granted, the information shall only be released subject to appropriate restrictions regarding its use. [Am. 42]	

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
			Article 4a Presumption
			1. Access to legal advice relating to issues which are the subject of an ongoing decision-making process or regarding a question of law which has not been decided, in last instance, by the Court of Justice, shall be presumed to undermine the protection of legal advice.  2. The applicant may demonstrate that there is an overriding public interest justifying the disclosure of
Article 5	Article 5	Article 5	the documents.  Article 5
<b>Documents in the Member States</b>	↓ 1049/2001 (adapted)	Consultations-Consultation of third	Documents in the Member States
Where a Member State receives a request for a document in its possession, originating from an institution, unless it is clear that the document shall or shall not be disclosed, the Member State shall consult with the institution concerned in order to take a decision that does not jeopardise the attainment of the objectives of this Regulation.  The Member State may instead refer	EX Consultations   41. As regards third-party documents, the institution shall consult the third party with a view to assessing whether an exception   referred to   in paragraph  1 or 2 Article 4 is applicable, unless it is clear that the document shall or shall not be disclosed.  5. A Member State may request the institution not to disclose a document	parties  1. As regards third-party documents, the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies shall consult the third party with a view to assessing whether an exception referred to in Article 4 is applicable, unless it is clear that the document shall or shall not be disclosed.  2. Where an application concerns a document originating from a Member	Where a Member State receives a request for a document in its possession, originating from an institution, unless it is clear that the document shall or shall not be disclosed, the Member State shall consult with the institution concerned in order to take a decision that does not jeopardise the attainment of the objectives of this Regulation.

Paragraphs in **bold** in this column correspond to the Commission 2011 proposal.

9441/12 ANNEX

LIMITE EN

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
the request to the institution.	originating from that Member State	State, other than documents	The Member State may instead refer
	without its prior agreement.	transmitted within the framework of	the request to the institution.
	↓ new	procedures leading to a legislative act	
	₩ new	or a non-legislative act delegated or	
	2. Where an application concerns a	implementing act of general	
	document originating from a Member	application, the authorities of that	
	State, other than documents transmitted	Member State shall be consulted	
	in the framework of procedures leading	where there is any doubt as to	
	to a legislative act or a non-legislative act	whether the document is covered by	
	of general application, the authorities of	one of the exceptions. The institution	
	that Member State shall be consulted.	holding the document shall disclose	
	The institution holding the document	it unless the Member State gives	
	shall disclose it unless the Member State	reasons for withholding it, based on	
	gives reasons for withholding it, based on	the exceptions referred to in Article	
	the exceptions referred to in Article 4 or	4, or on specific provisions in its own	
	on specific provisions in its own	legislation preventing disclosure of	
	legislation preventing disclosure of the	the document concerned. The	
	document concerned. The institution	institution shall appreciate the	
	shall appreciate the adequacy of reasons	adequacy of reasons given by the	
	given by the Member State insofar as	Member State insofar as they are	
	they are based on exceptions laid down in	based on exceptions laid down in this	
	this Regulation.	Regulation.and take a decision on	
	1 1010/2001 ( 1 )	the basis of its own judgment as to	
		whether the exceptions cover the	
	Article 5	document concerned.	
	Documents in the Member States	3. Where a Member State receives a	
		request for a document in its	
	<u>3.</u> Where a Member State receives a	possession, which originates from an	
	request for a document in its possession,	institution, body, office or agency,	
	originating	unless it is clear that the document	
	an institution, unless it is clear that the	shall or shall not be disclosed, the	
	document shall or shall not be disclosed,	Member State shall consult with the	
	the Member State shall consult with the	institution, body office or agency	
	institution concerned in order to take a	concerned in order to take a decision	

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
	decision that does not jeopardise the attainment of the objectives of this Regulation. The Member State may instead refer the request to the institution.	that does not jeopardise the objectives of this Regulation. The Member State may instead refer the request to the institution, body office or agency concerned. [Am. 43]	
(See Article 12)	(See Article 12)	Article 5a Legislative acts	(See Article 12)
		1. In compliance with the democratic principles outlined in Articles 9 to 12 TEU and with the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, institutions acting in their legislative capacity, including under delegated and implementing powers, as well as Member States when acting in their capacity as Members of the Council, shall grant the widest possible access to documents relating to their activities.	
		2. Documents relating to legislative programmes, preliminary civil society consultations, impact assessments and any other preparatory documents linked to a legislative procedure, as well as documents relating to the implementation of Union law and policies linked to a legislative procedure, shall be accessible on a	
		user-friendly and coordinated interinstitutional site and published	

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
		in a special electronic series of the Official Journal of the European Union.	
		3. During the legislative procedure, each institution, body, office or agency associated in the decision-making process shall publish its preparatory documents and all related information, including legal opinions, in a special series of the Official Journal of the European Union as well on a common internet site reproducing the lifecycle of the procedure concerned.  4. Once adopted, legislative acts shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union as provided for by Article 13. [Am. 44]	
Article 6	Article 6	Article 6	Article 6
Applications	Applications	Applications	Applications
<ol> <li>Applications for access to a document shall be made in any written form, including electronic form, in one of the languages referred to in Article 314 of the EC Treaty and in a sufficiently precise manner to enable the institution to identify the document. The applicant is not obliged to state reasons for the application.</li> <li>If an application is not sufficiently</li> </ol>	1. Applications for access to a document shall be made in any written form, including electronic form, in one of the languages referred to in Article 314 of the EC Treaty and in a sufficiently precise manner to enable the institution to identify the document. The applicant is not obliged to state reasons for the application.  2. If an application is not sufficiently	1. Applications for access to a document shall be made in any written form, including electronic form, in one of the languages referred to in Article 55(1) TEU and in a sufficiently precise manner to enable the institution to identify the document. The applicant is not obliged to state reasons for the application. [Am. 45]	1. Applications for access to a document shall be made in any written form, including electronic form, in one of the languages referred to in Article 55 of the Treaty on the European Union and in a sufficiently precise manner to enable the institution to identify the document. The applicant is not obliged to state reasons for the application.

precise, the institution shall ask the applicant to clarify the application and shall assist the applicant in doing so, for example, by providing information on the use of the public registers of documents.

- 3. In the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the institution concerned may confer with the applicant informally, with a view to finding a fair solution.
- 4. The institutions shall provide information and assistance to citizens on how and where applications for access to documents can be made.

## Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 24

precise ⇒ or if the requested documents cannot be identified ⇔, the institution shall ask the applicant to clarify the application and shall assist the applicant in doing so, for example, by providing information on the use of the public registers of documents. ⇒ The time limits provided for under Articles 7 and 8 shall start to run when the institution has received the requested clarifications. ⇔

- 3. In the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the institution concerned may confer with the applicant informally, with a view to finding a fair ⇒ and practical ⇒ solution.
- 4. The institutions shall provide information and assistance to citizens on how and where applications for access to documents can be made.

### **European Parliament position**

- 2. If an application is not sufficiently precise or if the requested documents cannot be identified, the institution, body, office or agency concerned shall, within 15 working days, ask the applicant to clarify the application and shall assist the applicant in doing so, for example, by providing information on the use of the public registers of documents. The time limits provided for under Articles 7 and 8 shall start to run when the institution, body, office or agency concerned has received the requested clarification. [Am. 46]
- 3. In the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the institution, body, office or agency concerned may confer with the applicant informally, with a view to finding a fair and practical solution.
- 4. The institutions, bodies, offices and agencies shall provide information and assistance to citizens on how and where applications for access to documents can be made.

# Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues

- 2. If an application is not sufficiently precise, the institution shall ask the applicant to clarify the application and shall assist the applicant in doing so, for example, by providing information on the use of the public registers of documents.
- 3. In the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the institution concerned **shall** confer with the applicant informally, with a view to finding a fair solution.

If no solution between the institution and the applicant can be found, the institution may choose to disclose a more limited number of documents that it considers to represent adequately the substance of the documents initially applied for.

This possibility exists only when the institution has genuinely investigated all other options and stated the reasons for which those options also involve an unreasonable administrative burden.

4. The institutions shall provide information and assistance to citizens on how and where applications for access to documents can be made.

## Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>

# Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues

#### Article 7

## Processing of initial applications Pr

- 1. An application for access to a document shall be handled promptly. An acknowledgement of receipt shall be sent to the applicant. Within 15 working days from registration of the application, the institution shall either grant access to the document requested and provide access in accordance with Article 10 within that period or, in a written reply, state the reasons for the total or partial refusal and inform the applicant of his or her right to make a confirmatory application in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article.
- 2. In the event of a total or partial refusal, the applicant may, within 15 working days of receiving the institution's reply, make a confirmatory application asking the institution to reconsider its position.
- 3. In exceptional cases, for example in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the time-limit provided for in paragraph 1 may be extended by 15 working days, provided that the applicant is notified in advance and that detailed reasons are given.
- 4. Failure by the institution to reply within the prescribed time-limit shall

#### Article 7

#### **Processing of initial applications**

- 1. An application for access to a document shall be handled promptly. An acknowledgement of receipt shall be sent to the applicant. Within 15 working days from registration of the application, the institution shall either grant access to the document requested and provide access in accordance with Article 10 within that period or, in a written reply, state the reasons for the total or partial refusal and inform the applicant of his or her right to make a confirmatory application in accordance with paragraph  $\frac{2}{2}$  4 of this Article.
- <u>32</u>. In exceptional cases, for example in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the time-limit provided for in paragraph 1 may be extended by 15 working days, provided that the applicant is notified in advance and that detailed reasons are given.
- <u>23</u>. In the event of a total or partial refusal, the applicant may, within 15 working days of receiving the institution's reply, make a confirmatory application asking the institution to reconsider its position.
- <u>44</u>. Failure by the institution to reply within the prescribed time-limit shall

#### Article 7

**European Parliament position** 

Processing of initial applications

- 1. An application for access to a document shall be handled promptly. An acknowledgement of receipt shall be sent to the applicant. Within 15 working days from registration of the application, the institution, body, office or agency concerned shall either grant access to the document requested and provide access in accordance with Article 10 within that period or, in a written reply, state the reasons for a total or partial refusal and inform the applicant of his or her right to make a confirmatory application in accordance with paragraph 4.
- 2. In exceptional cases, for example in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the time limit provided for in paragraph 1 may be extended by only once for a maximum period of 15 working days, provided that the applicant is notified in advance and that detailed reasons are given. [Am. 47]
- 3. In the event of a total or partial refusalThe institution, body, office or agency concerned shall notify the applicant whether, and if so when,

## Article 7 Processing of initial applications

- 1. An application for access to a document shall be handled promptly. An acknowledgement of receipt shall be sent to the applicant. As soon as possible and at the latest within 15 working days from registration of the application, the institution shall either grant access to the document requested and provide access in accordance with Article 10 within that period or, in a written reply, state the reasons for the total or partial refusal and inform the applicant of his or her right to make a confirmatory application in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article.
- 1a. The time-limit provided for in paragraph 1 shall be extended by a further 5 working days in respect of an application for access to a document originating from a Member State. Within that time-limit, the Member State consulted according to Article 4(5) shall be given a period of 10 working days for its reply.
- 2. In the event of a total or partial refusal, the applicant may, within 15 working days of receiving the

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
entitle the applicant to make a confirmatory application.	entitle the applicant to make a confirmatory application.	partial or full access to the document is likely to be possible at a later time.	institution's reply, make a confirmatory application asking the institution to reconsider its position.
		The applicant may, within 15 working days of receiving a reply from the institution, body, office or agency concerned, make a confirmatory application asking it to reconsider its position. [Am. 48]  4. Failure by the institution, body,	3. Where a third party other than a Member State is consulted according to Article 4 (4), or in exceptional cases, such as in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the time-limit
		office or agency to reply within the prescribed time limit shall entitle the applicant to make a confirmatory application.	provided for in paragraph 1 may be extended by 15 working days, provided that the applicant is notified in advance and that detailed reasons
		4a. Each institution, body, office and agency shall nominate a person responsible for checking that all the time limits laid down in this Article are duly met. [Am. 49]	<ul><li>4. Failure by the institution to reply within the prescribed time-limit shall entitle the applicant to make a confirmatory application.</li></ul>
Article 8  Processing of confirmatory applications	Article 8  Processing of confirmatory applications	Article 8 Processing of confirmatory applications	Article 8 Processing of confirmatory applications
1. A confirmatory application shall be handled promptly. Within 15 working days from registration of such an application, the institution shall either grant access to the document requested and provide access in accordance with Article 10 within that period or, in a written reply, state the reasons for the total or partial refusal. In the event of a	↓ 1049/2001 (adapted)  ⇒ new  1. A confirmatory application shall be handled promptly. Within 15 ⇒ 30 ⇔ working days from registration of such an application, the institution shall either grant access to the document requested	1. A confirmatory application shall be handled promptly. Within 30 working daysa maximum of 15 working days from registration of such an application, the institution, body, office or agency concerned shall either grant access to the document requested and provide access in accordance with Article 10	1. A confirmatory application shall be handled promptly. As soon as possible and at the latest within 30 working days from registration of such an application, the institution shall either grant access to the document requested and provide access in accordance with Article 10 within that period or, in a written reply, state the

total or partial refusal, the institution shall inform the applicant of the remedies open to him or her, namely instituting court proceedings against the institution and/or making a complaint to the Ombudsman, under the conditions laid down in Articles 230 and 195 of the EC Treaty, respectively.

- 2. In exceptional cases, for example in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the time-limit provided for in paragraph 1 may be extended by 15 working days, provided that the applicant is notified in advance and that detailed reasons are given.
- 3. Failure by the institution to reply within the prescribed time-limit shall be considered as a negative reply and entitle the applicant to institute court proceedings against the institution and/or make a complaint to the Ombudsman, under the relevant provisions of the EC Treaty.

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and provide access in accordance with Article 10 within that period or, in a written reply, state the reasons for the total or partial refusal. In the event of a total or partial refusal, the institution shall inform the applicant of the remedies open to him or her, namely instituting court proceedings against the institution and/or making a complaint to the Ombudsman, under the conditions laid down in Articles 230 and 195 of the EC Treaty, respectively.

↓ 1049/2001

<u>22</u>. In exceptional cases, for example in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the time limit provided for in paragraph 1 may be extended by 15 working days, provided that the applicant is notified in advance and that detailed reasons are given.

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3. In the event of a total or partial refusal, the applicant may bring proceedings before the Court of First Instance against the institution and/or make a complaint to the European Ombudsman, under the conditions laid down in Articles 230 and 195 of the EC Treaty, respectively.

↓ 1049/2001 (adapted)

### **European Parliament position**

within that period or, in a written reply, state the reasons for a total or partial refusal. In the event of a total or partial refusal, *that* institution, *body*, *office or agency* shall inform the applicant of the remedies open to him or her. [Am. 50]

- 2. In exceptional cases, for example in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the time limit provided for in paragraph 1 may be extended by only once for a maximum period of 15 working days, provided that the applicant is notified in advance and that detailed reasons are given. [Am. 51]
- 3. In the event of a total or partial refusal, the applicant may bring proceedings before the General Court against the institution, body, office or agency and/or make a complaint to the European Ombudsman, under the conditions laid down in Articles 263 and 228 TFEU, respectively.
- 4. Failure by the institution, body, office or agency to reply within the prescribed time limit shall be considered as a definitive negative reply and shall entitle the applicant to institute court proceedings against the institution, body, office or agency and/or make a complaint to the

# Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues

reasons for the total or partial refusal. In the event of a total or partial refusal, the institution shall inform the applicant of the remedies open to him or her, namely instituting court proceedings **before the General**Court against the institution and/or making a complaint to the Ombudsman, under the conditions laid down in **Articles 263 and 228 TFEU**, respectively.

- 1a. Within the time-limit provided for in paragraph 1, the Member States consulted according to Article 4(5) shall be given 10 working days to reply.
- 2. Where a third party other than a Member State is consulted according to Article 4(4), or in exceptional cases, such as in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to a very large number of documents, the time-limit provided for in paragraph 1 may be extended by 5 working days, provided that the applicant is notified in advance and that detailed reasons are given.
- 3. Failure by the institution to reply within the prescribed time-limit shall be considered as a negative reply and

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
	34. Failure by the institution to reply within the prescribed time limit shall be considered as a negative reply and Shall Shall entitle the applicant to institute court proceedings against the institution and/or make a complaint to the Ombudsman, under the relevant provisions of the EC Treaty.	European Ombudsman, under the relevant provisions of the EC Treaty Treaties. [Am. 52]  Article 8a  Fresh applications  If, after receiving the documents, the applicant requests further documents from an institution, body, office or agency, that request shall be dealt with as a fresh application in accordance with Articles 7 and 8. [Am. 53]	entitle the applicant to institute court proceedings before the General Court against the institution and/or make a complaint to the Ombudsman, under the relevant provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
[]	[]	[]	[Not part of the Presidency's approach]
Article 12	Article 12	Article 12	Article 12
Direct access in electronic form or	↓ 1049/2001 (adapted)	Direct access to documents	Direct access to documents <sup>25</sup>
through a register  1. The institutions shall as far as possible make documents directly accessible to the public in electronic form or through a register in accordance with the rules of the institution concerned.  2. In particular, legislative documents, that is to say, documents drawn up or received in the course of procedures for	Direct access in electronic form or through a register to documents to documents.  1. The institutions shall as far as possible make documents directly accessible to the public in electronic form or through a register in accordance with the rules of the institution concerned.  21. In particular, legislative documents, that is to say, dDocuments drawn up or	1. Documents-The institutions, bodies, offices and agencies shall make documents directly accessible to the public in electronic form or through registers, particularly those drawn up or received in the course of procedures for the adoption of EU Union legislative acts or delegated and implementing acts of general application shall, subject to Articles 4	<ol> <li>The institutions shall as far as possible make documents directly accessible to the public in electronic form or through a register in accordance with the rules of the institution concerned.</li> <li>() Documents drawn up or received in the course of procedures for the adoption of <u>EU legislative</u> acts</li> </ol>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> [Part of the amendments proposed in this Article are considered outside the scope of the recast proposal.]

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
the adoption of acts which are legally binding in or for the Member States, should, subject to Articles 4 and 9, be made directly accessible.  3. Where possible, other documents, notably documents relating to the development of policy or strategy, should be made directly accessible.  4. Where direct access is not given through the register, the register shall as far as possible indicate where the document is located.	received in the course of procedures for the adoption of $\boxtimes$ EU legislative $\boxtimes$ acts which are legally binding in or for the Member States, should $\boxtimes$ or non-legislative acts of general application shall $\boxtimes$ , subject to Articles 4 and 9, be made directly accessible $\boxtimes$ to the public $\boxtimes$ .  32. Where possible, other documents, notably documents relating to the development of policy or strategy, should $\boxtimes$ shall $\boxtimes$ be made directly accessible $\boxtimes$ in electronic form $\boxtimes$ .  1049/2001  43. Where direct access is not given through the register, the register shall as far as possible indicate where the document is located.  1 new  4. Each institution shall define in its rules of procedure which other categories of documents are directly accessible to the public.	and 9, be made directly accessible to the public. [Am. 58]  2. Where possible, other documents, notably documents relating to the development of policy or strategy, shall be made directly accessible in electronic form.  3. Where direct access is not given through the register, the register shall as far as possible indicate where the document is located.  4. Each institution, body, office and agency shall define in its rules of procedure which other categories of documents are shall be proactively made directly accessible to the public. [Am. 59]	or non-legislative acts of general application shall, subject to Articles 4 and 9, be made directly accessible to the public.  3. Where possible, other documents, notably documents relating to the development of policy or strategy shall be made directly accessible.  4. Where direct access is not given through the register, the register shall as far as possible indicate where the document is located.
[]	[]	[]	[Not part of the Presidency's approach]
Article 14  Information	Article 14  Information	Article 14 Information	Article 14 Information

<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
<ol> <li>Each institution shall take the requisite measures to inform the public of the rights they enjoy under this Regulation.</li> <li>The Member States shall cooperate with the institutions in providing information to the citizens.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Each institution shall take the requisite measures to inform the public of the rights they enjoy under this Regulation.</li> <li>The Member States shall cooperate with the institutions in providing information to the citizens.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Each institution, body, office and agency shall take the requisite measures to inform the public of the rights they enjoy under this Regulation.</li> <li>The Member States shall cooperate with the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies in providing information to the citizens.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Each institution shall take the requisite measures to inform the public of the rights they enjoy under this Regulation.</li> <li>The Member States shall cooperate with the institutions in providing information to the citizens.</li> </ol>
		Article 14a	
		Information Officer	
		1. Each general administrative unit within each institution, body, office and agency shall appoint an Information Officer who shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this Regulation and good administrative practice within that administrative unit.	
		2. The Information Officer shall determine which information it is expedient to give the public concerning:	
		(a) the implementation of this Regulation;	
		(b) good practice;	
		and shall ensure the dissemination of that information in an	

<sup>26</sup> OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

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<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
		appropriate form and manner.	
		3. The Information Officer shall assess whether the services within his or her general administrative unit follow good practice.	
		4. The Information Officer may redirect the person who requires the information to another general administrative unit if the information in question falls outside the remit of that unit and within the remit of another unit within the same institution, body, office or agency, provided that the other unit in question is in possession of such information. [Am. 62]	
		Article 14b	
		Principle of good and open administration	
		In the transitional period before the adoption of the rules as envisaged by Article 298 TFEU and based on the requirements of Article 41 of the Charter, the institutions, bodies,	
		offices and agencies shall, on the basis of the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour, adopt	
		and publish general guidelines on the scope of the obligations of confidentiality and professional secrecy set out in Article 339 TFEU,	
		the obligations arising from sound	

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
		and transparent administration and the protection of personal data in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data <sup>26</sup> . Those guidelines shall also define the sanctions applicable in the event of failure to comply with this Regulation in accordance with the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union, the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the European Union and in the internal rules of the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies . [Am. 63]	
Article 15	Article 15	Article 15	Article 15 Administrative practice in the
Administrative practice in the institutions	Administrative practice in the institutions	Administrative <i>transparency</i> practice in the institutions, <i>bodies</i> , <i>offices and</i>	institutions
<ol> <li>The institutions shall develop good administrative practices in order to facilitate the exercise of the right of access guaranteed by this Regulation.</li> <li>The institutions shall establish an interinstitutional committee to examine best practice, address possible conflicts</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>The institutions shall develop good administrative practices in order to facilitate the exercise of the right of access guaranteed by this Regulation.</li> <li>The institutions shall establish an interinstitutional committee to examine best practice, address possible conflicts</li> </ol>	agencies [Am. 64]  1. The institutions, offices, bodies and agencies shall develop good administrative practices in order to facilitate the exercise of the right of access guaranteed by this Regulation.  1a. The institutions, bodies, offices	The institutions shall develop good administrative practices in order to facilitate the exercise of the right of access guaranteed by this Regulation.      Institutions shall designate access to documents officers to

Regulation 1049/2001	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
and discuss future developments on public access to documents.	and discuss future developments on public access to documents.	and agencies shall inform citizens, in a fair and transparent way, about their organisational chart by indicating the remit of their internal units, the internal workflow and indicative deadlines of the procedures falling within their remit, and the services to which citizens may refer to obtain support, information or administrative redress. [Am. 65]	manage the application of this Regulation. <sup>27</sup> 2. The institutions shall establish an interinstitutional committee to examine best practice, address possible conflicts and discuss future developments on public access to documents.
		2. The institutions, bodies, offices and agencies shall establish an interinstitutional committee to examine best practice, address possible conflicts and discuss future developments on public access to documents.	
		2a. Documents relating to the European Union budget, its implementation and beneficiaries of Union funds and grants shall be public and accessible to citizens.	
		Such documents shall also be accessible via a specific website and database, and on a database dealing with financial transparency in the Union. [Am. 66]	

<sup>27</sup> [This proposed amendment is considered outside the scope of the recast proposal.]

	<b>Regulation 1049/2001</b>	Commission Proposals 2008 & 2011 <sup>24</sup>	European Parliament position	Presidency compromise text to start informal trilogues
[]		[]	[]	[Not part of the Presidency's approach]