



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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## **Council's public register of documents hits 2 million mark**

The Council of the European Union's public register has reached 2 million documents online. As of today the register contains the references of 2.000.267 documents. Around 75% of these documents are publicly available and directly downloadable. A further 15% are partially available.

The public register (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu>) is the online gateway for the access to Council documents. It is constantly updated via an automatic archiving system.

The register works in all 24 official EU languages although some documents (mainly preparatory documents) are available in a limited number of language versions.

### **Background**

The Council's public register has been operational since 1 January 1999. The Council was the first EU institution to establish a public register, thus anticipating regulation 1049/2001 which required the EU institutions to create a register of publicly available documents to be operational by 3 June 2002 at the latest.

Access to documents is just one example of the Council's commitment to openness. When deliberating and voting on a draft legislative act the Council meets in public session. In addition, other debates, e.g. on important issues affecting the interests of the EU and its citizens, are also held in public. The Council held more than 270 public debates in 2012. Public debates and deliberations can be followed on the Council's video streaming portal <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>.

[Council's annual report on access to documents 2012.](#)

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**P R E S S**

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Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026  
[press.office@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:press.office@consilium.europa.eu) <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press>

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