

Question for written answer E-001076/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Julia Reda (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Barriers to accessing Commission documents

Since 2014, anyone requesting access to Commission documents under the terms of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents has had to provide a postal address as part of the procedure. As a result, online portals such as asktheeu.org, which have been set up to guide people through the process of requesting information from the institutions, are now more difficult to use. According to the Commission team responsible for dealing with requests for access to documents, the decision to require provision of a postal address was prompted by fears that the right to information was being misused.

1. Can the Commission provide details of every improper request for access to Commission documents made since Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 came into force?
2. Which of these improper requests were prevented because a postal address was required, and which of them could have been prevented had such a requirement already been in place?
3. What specific organisational, legal or technical measures does the Commission intend to take, and by when, to make access to its own documents easier for everyone or for specific target groups?