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Answer given by First Vice-President Timmermans
on behalf of the European Commission
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A non-paper is an unofficial document which is often used within the institutions, international organisations or in negotiations with third countries to provide a technical contribution as a basis for discussion or an informal contribution to help reach a consensus. By definition, therefore, non-papers are not equivalent to formal Commission decisions. When the aim is to share certain ideas informally with the other institutions as part of interinstitutional contacts made under the legislative procedure with a view to reaching a consensus, non-papers undergo an internal approval procedure by the College and are sent automatically to the European Parliament and/or Council. The Commission does not keep a register of the non-papers prepared by its departments.

Regarding the negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union, the Commission has decided to adopt a tailor-made approach to transparency and to publish the Commission's negotiating documents that are shared with the Member States, the European Council, the European Parliament, the Council, national parliaments and the United Kingdom. The negotiating documents are published on the website of the 'Article 50 taskforce'¹ (taskforce in charge of preparing and conducting the negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50). The above documents include the agendas of the negotiating rounds, the EU's position papers, informal documents and the EU's draft proposals.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/brexit-negotiations/negotiating-documents-article-50-negotiations-united-kingdom_en