The purpose of the Historical Archives Service (HAS) of the European Commission is to communicate, in accordance with the rules, the European Commission’s historical heritage as part of the common cultural heritage.

To this end, the HAS, as part of a long-term initiative to promote use and access,

- collects the paper or digital documents drawn up and received by the Commission, organised into files and with legal or historical value;
- keeps them up to date, describes them and places them in their historical context;
- ensures their retention and authenticity, in particular by implementing long-term digital retention infrastructure;
- makes them available through online tools, its reading room and the searches carried out by the archivists to respond to internal and external queries;
- transfers the original files to the Historical Archives of the European Union (Florence, Italy).

Thus, the HAS is the bridge between the administration on the one hand and the research community and the public on the other hand. It encourages historical research, promotes the public interest in the process of European integration and helps to strengthen the spirit of openness and transparency in the Commission.

Internally, it assists Commission departments in the management of their intermediate archives (storage, retrieval, loans) during the administrative lifecycle of documents.