

**FIGURES AT 31.12.1996**  
**(3 years of application 1994,1995,1996)**

**1. Origin of requests for access to Commission documents**

The most common categories of applicant are, in descending order, the academic world (teachers, students, research centres) (24.7%), followed by lobbyists (16.7%), lawyers (15.3%) and industry (14.5%).

| MEPs |     | Lobbyists |      | Lawyers |      | Journalists |     | Academics |      | Public authorities |      | Private individuals |     | Industry |      | TOTAL |     |
|------|-----|-----------|------|---------|------|-------------|-----|-----------|------|--------------------|------|---------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|-----|
| No   | %   | No        | %    | No      | %    | No          | %   | No        | %    | No                 | %    | No                  | %   | No       | %    | No    | %   |
| 24   | 2.4 | 165       | 16.7 | 151     | 15.3 | 24          | 2.4 | 245       | 24.7 | 142                | 14.4 | 95                  | 9.6 | 143      | 14.5 | 989   | 100 |

In terms of geographic origin of requests, Belgium (30.1%) and the United Kingdom (18.4%) are well ahead, followed by France (10.1%). The proportion of requests coming from third countries (China, United States, Hong Kong, Japan) is 7.9%.

| GERMANY |     | BELGIUM |      | DENMARK |     | SPAIN |     |
|---------|-----|---------|------|---------|-----|-------|-----|
| No      | %   | No      | %    | No      | %   | No    | %   |
| 91      | 9.2 | 298*    | 30.1 | 30      | 3.0 | 39    | 4.0 |

| FRANCE |      | GREECE |     | IRELAND |     | ITALY |     |
|--------|------|--------|-----|---------|-----|-------|-----|
| No     | %    | No     | %   | No      | %   | No    | %   |
| 100    | 10.1 | 5      | 0.5 | 16      | 1.6 | 54    | 5.5 |

| LUXEMBOURG |     | NETHERLANDS |     | PORTUGAL |     | UNITED KINGDOM |      |
|------------|-----|-------------|-----|----------|-----|----------------|------|
| No         | %   | No          | %   | No       | %   | No             | %    |
| 5          | 0.5 | 43          | 4.3 | 9        | 0.9 | 182            | 18.4 |

\* Of which the vast majority are international associations with their headquarters in Belgium (lobbyists, lawyers, etc.).

| NEW STATES |     | THIRD COUNTRIES |     | E E A |     |
|------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-------|-----|
| No         | %   | No              | %   | No    | %   |
| 23         | 2.4 | 78              | 7.9 | 16    | 1.6 |

| TOTAL |     |
|-------|-----|
| No    | %   |
| 989   | 100 |

## 2. Subject of requests

An analysis by subject matter shows a wide range of requests. The sectors most in demand are the environment (16.4%), industry (11.7%), fisheries (11.5%) and competition (8.2 %).

| External Relations (DG I, IA, IB, VIII) |     | Economic affairs (DG II) |     | Industry (DG III) |      | Competition (DG IV) |     | Social affairs (DG V) |     | Agriculture (DG VI) |     | Transport (DG VII) |     |
|---|-----|--------------------------|-----|-------------------|------|---------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| No                                      | %   | No                       | %   | No                | %    | No                  | %   | No                    | %   | No                  | %   | No                 | %   |
| 59                                      | 5.7 | 9                        | 0.9 | 121               | 11.7 | 84                  | 8.2 | 23                    | 2.2 | 56                  | 5.4 | 12                 | 1.2 |

| Personnel and admin. (DG IX) |     | Info/ Communication/ Culture (DG X) |     | Environment (DG XI) |      | Research (DG XII) |     | Telecoms. (DG XIII) |     | Fisheries (DG XIV) |      | Internal market (DG XV) |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|------|-------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|--------------------|------|-------------------------|-----|
| No                           | %   | No                                  | %   | No                  | %    | No                | %   | No                  | %   | No                 | %    | No                      | %   |
| 8                            | 0.8 | 6                                   | 0.6 | 170                 | 16.4 | 7                 | 0.7 | 6                   | 0.6 | 118                | 11.5 | 42                      | 4.1 |

| Regional policy (DG XVI) |     | Energy (DG XVII) |     | Loans and investments (DG XVIII) |     | Budget/ Financial Control (DG XIX-XX) |     | Customs- Indirect taxation (DG XXI) |     | Education Training (DG XXII) |     | Small business (DG XXIII) |     | Consumer policy (DG XXIV) |     |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| No                       | %   | No               | %   | No                               | %   | No                                    | %   | No                                  | %   | No                           | %   | No                        | %   | No                        | %   |
| 13                       | 1.3 | 7                | 0.7 | 1                                | 0.1 | 46                                    | 4.5 | 18                                  | 1.8 | 4                            | 0.4 | 10                        | 1.0 | 18                        | 1.8 |

| Others * (SG/SJ/SCIC/UCLAF/BDS, etc.) |      | TOTAL   |     |
|---------------------------------------|------|---------|-----|
| No                                    | %    | No      | %   |
| 190                                   | 18.4 | 1028*** | 100 |

\* Legal questions, security, translation, archives, 3rd pillar, institutional questions, offences and state aid, fight against fraud, etc.

\*\* In 39 cases, the requesting files concerned documents relating to two different sectors.

### 3. Replies given to requests for access

The table indicates the rate (in %) of favourable and unfavourable replies and the number of inadmissible requests. More than 85% of the admissible requests received a positive reply.

|   | No         | %           |
|---|------------|-------------|
| ADMISSIBLE REQUESTS   | 962        | 100         |
| <b>Positive replies</b>   | <b>845</b> | <b>87.8</b> |
| <b>Negative replies</b>   | <b>117</b> | <b>12.2</b> |
| Refusal justified by an exception:  |            |             |
| - Public interest   | 38         | 32.6        |
| - Private interest  | 0          | 0.0         |
| - Commercial and industrial secret  | 9          | 7.7         |
| - Financial interests of the Commission   | 5          | 4.3         |
| - Confidentiality requested by the person or the Member State supplying the information | 10         | 8.5         |
| - Confidentiality of the proceedings  | 30         | 25.6        |
| - Documents of Committees whose work is confidential                                    | 8          | 6.8         |
| - Case where several exceptions were invoked  | 17         | 14.5        |
| INADMISSIBLE REQUESTS   |            |             |
| - Documents already published   | 92         |             |
| - Documents not issued by the Commission  | 51         |             |
| - Imprecise request   | 25         |             |
| - Inexisting documents  | 4          |             |
|   | 12         |             |

#### **4. Confirmative requests**

If the applicant does not obtain satisfaction, he has the possibility of introducing a confirmative request with the Secretary-General of the Commission, within the time-limit of one month. From March 1994 to 31 December 1996, 59 confirmative requests were introduced. Of these 59 requests, 35 were confirmed as definite refusals (the documents revealed one of the exceptions covered by the Code of Conduct), 2 were partially confirmed, 2 documents were not issued by the Commission, 2 documents did not exist, 1 request was imprecise and the 17 others obtained a positive reply.