

## FIGURES FOR 1998

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

The most common categories of applicant are, in descending order, the public authorities (20.8%), the academic world (teachers, students, research centres) (20.4%), lobbyists (19%) and industry (15.4%).

MEPs		Lobbyists		Lawyers		Journalists		Academics		Public authorities		Private individuals		Industry		TOTAL	
No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
9	1.5	114	19	77	12.8	12	2	123	20.4	125	20.8	49	8.1	93	15.4	602	100

In terms of geographic origin of requests, Belgium (30.4%) is well ahead, followed by the United Kingdom (12.4%) and France (10.1%). There is, however, a greater geographic spread of requests. Countries outside Europe (USA, Canada, Japan) represent only a small proportion (2.7%). The high figures for Belgium are explained by the fact that the vast majority of applicants are international associations with their headquarters in Belgium (lobbyists, lawyers, etc.).

GERMANY		BELGIUM		DENMARK		SPAIN	
No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
56	9.3	183	30.4	15	2.5	44	7.3

FRANCE		GREECE		IRELAND		ITALY	
No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
61	10.1	3	0.5	9	1.5	37	6.1

LUXEMBOURG		NETHERLANDS		PORTUGAL		UNITED KINGDOM	
No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
10	1.7	41	6.8	3	0.5	75	12.4

AUSTRIA		FINLAND		SWEDEN	
No	%	No	%	No	%
8	1.3	10	1.7	9	1.5

NON-COMMUNITY EUROPEAN COUNTRY		NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRY		NATIONALITY NOT GIVEN	
No	%	No	%	No	%
21	3.5	16	2.7	1	0.2

TOTAL	
No	%
602	100

## 2. Subject of requests

An analysis by subject matter shows a wide range of requests. The sectors most in demand have changed, however (in 1997: external relations, personnel and administration, consumer policy and the environment): the change mainly affects the Secretariat-General (15.6%), industry (13.5%), internal market (9.5%) and consumer policy (7.5%).

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	%
38	6	12	1.9	87	13.5	36	5.6	15	2.3	24	3.7	9	1.4

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	%
13	2	4	0.6	26	4	28	4.4	4	0.6	36	5.6	61	9.5

Regional policy (DG XVI)		Energy (DG XVII)		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	%
8	1.2	20	3.1	9	1.4	46	7.1	0	0	8	1.3	48	7.5

Secretariat-General (+UCLAF+TFJAI+TFCIG)		Legal Service		Others (DI, SCIC, BDS)		TOTAL *	
No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
100	15.6	8	1.2	3	0.5	643	100

\* 31 requests were for documents relating to several different areas.

### 3. Replies given to requests for access

The table indicates the percentage of requests granted and refused and the number of inadmissible requests. Over 90% of admissible requests were granted.

<b>REPLIES TO ADMISSIBLE REQUESTS</b>	<b>No</b> 676	<b>%</b> 100
<b>Requests granted</b>	625	92.5
<b>Requests refused</b>	51	7.5
Refusal justified on the grounds of an exception:		
- Public interest	27	52.9
- Protection of the individual/privacy	2	3.9
- Commercial and industrial confidentiality	1	2.0
- Commission's financial interests	1	2.0
- Confidentiality requested by the person or Member State that supplied the information	2	3.9
- Confidentiality of proceedings	3	5.9
- Exception not specified	5	9.8
- Several exceptions invoked	10	19.6
<b>REPLIES TO INADMISSIBLE REQUESTS</b>	<b>No</b> 124	<b>%</b> 100
- Documents already published	51	41.1
- Documents not produced by the Commission	37	29.8
- Imprecise request	12	9.7
- Documents do not exist	24	19.4

#### 4. Confirmatory applications

29 confirmatory applications were made, some relating to more than one document.

REPLIES TO ADMISSIBLE CONFIRMATORY APPLICATIONS	No 24	% 100
<b>Requests granted</b>	<b>7</b>	29.2
<b>Requests refused</b>	<b>17</b>	70.8
Refusal justified on the grounds of an exception:		
- Public interest	12	70.5
- Commercial and industrial confidentiality	2	11.8
- Confidentiality requested by the person or Member State that supplied the information	1	5.9
- Confidentiality of proceedings	1	5.9
- Several exceptions invoked	1	5.9
REPLIES TO INADMISSIBLE CONFIRMATORY APPLICATIONS	No 14	% 100
- Documents already published	0	0
- Documents not produced by the Commission	10	71.4
- Documents do not exist	3	21.4
- Imprecise request	1	7.2

#### 5. Application to Ombudsman/CFI for review

One application for review was made to the CFI in 1998 (case pending) and four complaints were made to the Ombudsman (cases currently under review).