



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Directorate-General Communication and Information - COMM
Directorate Information and Outreach
Information Services Unit / Transparency
Head of Unit

Brussels, 13 February 2023

Mr Anas Ambri
Email: ask+request-12463-f47c8049@asktheeu.org

Ref. 23/0200-ws/vk

Request made on: 22.01.2023
Registered on: 23.01.2023

Dear Mr Ambri,

Thank you for your request for access to documents of the Council of the European Union..¹

We have identified a number of documents corresponding to your request, which you will be able to download via the following link: <https://we.tl/t-49RaSPvmq>

You will see that some of the documents have been redacted in order to delete personal data and/or internal functional email addresses; furthermore, the documents are made available in PDF format, with data at metadata level or in hyperlinks expunged..²

Access to the deleted parts of the documents cannot be given for the reasons set out below.

As regards **personal data**, the data concerned is necessary for the organisation of the work of the Council.

Data protection rules at EU level³ provide that when the personal data collected is to be used for a different purpose, including disclosure to the public, a balance needs to be established between

¹ The General Secretariat of the Council has examined your request on the basis of the applicable rules: Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43) and the specific provisions concerning public access to Council documents set out in Annex II to the Council's Rules of Procedure (Council Decision No 2009/937/EU, OJ L 325, 11.12.2009, p. 35).

² Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

³ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 295 21.11.2018, p. 39).

the public interest in having access to such data and the legitimate right of individuals to protect their personal data..⁴

After carefully considering all the principles related to this request, on balance the General Secretariat has concluded that disclosure of the personal data contained in the documents would undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the identified individuals. As a consequence, the General Secretariat has to refuse access to the data concerned..⁵

Regarding **functional email addresses**, it is necessary to withhold them in order to prevent undue interference with the Council's IT systems, which could endanger their safety and stability. Disclosure of this information would therefore undermine the protection of the public interest as regards public security. As a consequence, the General Secretariat has to refuse access to relevant parts of the documents..⁶

Please note that some of the documents contain other, embedded documents, which you will not be able to access directly in the PDF versions made available to you. You will find these embedded documents in a ZIP file with the same name as the main document (apart from the extension: .zip instead of .pdf).

Finally, documents 7352/1/20 REV 1 and 7352/1/20 REV 1 ADD 1, as embedded in documents "Confirmatory for Dummies-FINAL" and "COVID19 – adoption procedure", do not correspond to actually circulated Council documents. They therefore need to be understood as fictitious examples.

Pursuant to Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you may ask the Council to review this decision within 15 working days of receiving this reply. Should you see the need for such a review, you are invited to indicate the reasons thereof.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando FLORINDO

Enclosures: 20

⁴ Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725.

⁵ Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

⁶ Article 4(1)(a), first indent, of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.