



SG.2
Head of Division

Brussels, 26 April 2023
eeas.sg.2 (2023) 3882495

To
Ms Kelly Bescherer
by electronic mail

Subject: Your application for access to documents of 6 April 2022
EEAS ref: 2023/051

Dear Ms Bescherer,

I would like to thank you for your request for access to documents, which the EEAS has examined in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.¹

Following your application, we have searched for the “*correspondence between the Delegation of the EU to Cameroon and the Cameroonian authorities on the topic of visa sanctions in the last 5 years*”, in the EEAS filing systems and document management databases.

After this search, the EEAS has identified the following documents matching your application, as referenced hereafter:

1. Note Verbale 0202/2022 from the Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cameroon Ares(2022)6372295 (document 1);
2. Compte-rendu du sous-comité « Migration » UE-Cameroun du 15 Novembre 2022 (document 2).

Following your request, I am pleased to forward to you document 1 in attachment to this letter.

I take this opportunity to remind you that the document provided may be reused on condition that the source is acknowledged and that you do not distort the original meaning or message

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (hereafter the "Regulation").

of the document. Please note that the EEAS does not assume liability stemming from its reuse. In case of doubt on reuse, please do contact the EEAS for prior authorisation.

Concerning document 2, our examination concluded that the document relates to a decision, which has not yet been taken by the EEAS and Cameroon. The document has been written in view of an in-depth political discussion at the level of Ministers that will take place in June 2023.

The disclosure of this document to the general public would undermine the protection of international relations as per Article 4(1)(a), third indent, of the Regulation.

Currently, the relevant discussions with the Cameroonian authorities are not concluded and are taking place within a framework of confidentiality, taking into account that the ultimate decision rests with the government of Cameroon, in accordance to the established principles of international relations. To this end, an environment of mutual trust with the Cameroonian interlocutors is a prime requirement for the ongoing discussions to succeed. The disclosure of this document at this moment in time would hamper the discussion process and will affect the EU's international relations with Cameroon.

We have considered whether partial access could be granted to the document 2. However, since the vast majority of the substantive parts of the document are covered by the invoked exceptions, granting a partial access, albeit marginal, to the remaining part would entail revealing information the protection of which is covered by the exception relied on, relating to the protection of international relations as explained above.²

Therefore, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose this document at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards international relations as per Article 4(1)(a), third indent, of Regulation.

Should you wish this position to be reviewed, you may make a confirmatory application within 15 working days in accordance with Article 7(2) of the Regulation.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Nereo Penalver Garcia

² See Judgment of 7 February 2018, *Access Info Europe v Commission*, T-851/16, EU:T:2018:69, paragraphs 122 and 123.