

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Head of Division

Brussels, **10 MARS 2017**
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2017) 1167900

Mr. Vincent Harmsen
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Subject: Your request for access to documents of 11 January 2017
Our ref: 2017/007

Dear Mr. Harmsen,

Thank you for your request for access to documents, which we have examined in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹.

As already communicated to you by the Commission on 11 January 2017, your request was attributed to several Directorates-General of the Commission, as well as the European External Action Service. This letter contains the reply to your request insofar as it concerns the EEAS documents.

We have identified the following documents matching your request:

1. Briefing for the European Council - e-brief 2016/1896 - 12/12/2016
2. Briefing for the 32nd ACP Parliamentary Assembly - e-brief 2016/1808 - 01/12/2016
3. Briefing for meeting between DSG Leffler and Mr Garcia Bercero - Ares(2017)763279
4. Briefing for meeting between DSG Leffler and Ambassador Uibo - Ares(2016)767868
5. Information note to the HR/VP "The US elections – Implications for EU interests and EU-US cooperation – first analysis" - Ares(2016)6396804
6. Note "The Trump Presidency: likely priorities and main areas of EU interest" - Ares(2016)6340745
7. Report of EU DCM Coordination Meeting - Ares(2016)7026012

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").

8. Report of EU Heads of Mission Breakfast Meeting - Ares(2016)6892327
9. Note "First impressions on what US election could mean for health and food safety" - Ares(2016)6475058

Document No 1 is a short contribution prepared by the EEAS as part of the briefing for President Tusk for the European Council held in December 2016. It provides background information on the outcome of the US elections. Most of the document is outside the scope of the current request. There are only three brief sentences where the TTIP is mentioned in the context of the election of President Trump. However, we consider that they cannot be disclosed as they include an early internal assessment and may harm relations with the United States.

Document No 2 is part of a briefing prepared by the EEAS for the 32nd ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) meeting held on 19-20 December 2016 in Kenya. It contains briefing points and background information about the impact of TTIP on developing countries. Again, we consider that the short parts of the document that refer to TTIP in relation to the election of President Trump contains sensitive information about EU's positions and its release could have an effect on relations with the United States.

Documents No 3 and 4 are briefings prepared by the EEAS for meetings with the participation of high level EEAS officials where the TTIP was mentioned in connection with the election of President Trump, notably a meeting between EEAS Deputy Secretary General Christian Leffler and Director Garcia Bercero, and a meeting between DSG Leffler and the Estonian PSC Ambassador Lembit Uibo. Most of the content of the documents is outside the scope of the current request.

Documents No 5 and 6 are internal notes, namely an Information note to the HR/VP prepared by the EEAS Headquarters and entitled "The US elections – Implications for EU interests and EU-US cooperation – first analysis", and a Note prepared by the EU Delegation in Washington, DC and entitled "The Trump Presidency: likely priorities and main areas of EU interest". Both notes are internal documents containing preliminary assessment and outlook for the policies to be expected under the new US Administration as well as implications for EU policy- and decision-making.

Documents No 7 and 8 are reports produced by the EU Delegation in Washington, DC, following internal EU meetings, specifically a meeting of the Deputy Chiefs of Mission in Washington, DC and another one - EU Heads of Mission Breakfast Meeting in Washington, DC.

Document No 9 is a Note prepared by the EU Delegation in Washington, DC – "First impressions on what US election could mean for health and food safety". Most of its content is outside the scope of the current request. There is one sentence where TTIP is mentioned in connection with the election of President Trump. However, the sentence is about an internal opinion and could jeopardise relations with the United States.

Therefore, we are not in a position to disclose the requested documents at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it could a) seriously undermine the the institutions

decision making process and b) risk undermining the international relations (as per Art 4(3)1st indent and 4(1)(a)3rd indent of the Regulation).

Should you wish this position to be reviewed, you may confirm your initial request within 15 working days.

Yours sincerely,



Gabriele Visentin

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