Mr Elias Rutten  
E-mail: ask+request-14525-b767e0fd@asktheeu.org

Ref. 24/1359  
Request made on: 02.05.2024  
Deadline extension: 28.05.2024

Dear Mr Rutten,

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

We have identified as relevant to your access request a note on the outlines of a "Made in Europe" strategy, which was circulated by the French delegation to the Antici counsellors on 13 January 2024.

I regret to inform you that access to this document cannot be given.

The French authorities, in accordance with Article 4(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, have requested that this document not be disclosed for the reasons set out below.

The note contains a set of measures that could constitute a robust and rapid European response to the challenges facing European industry for the years to come. It is meant to provide France’s contribution to the relevant discussions on this issue, which are currently taking place both within the EU and between the EU and third countries.

Release of the information contained in this note in the current geopolitical and economic climate would have a negative impact on the relations between the European Union and its main international partners. Disclosure of this document would therefore undermine the protection of the

public interest as regards international relations. As a consequence, the General Secretariat has to refuse access to this document.²

Furthermore, release of the information contained in this note would risk affecting the positive effects of any future EU industrial policy. Disclosure of the document would therefore undermine the protection of the public interest as regards the financial, monetary or economic policy of the EU. As a consequence, the General Secretariat has to refuse access to this document.³

The General Secretariat of the Council shares the above-mentioned assessment.

We have also looked into the possibility of releasing parts of this note. However, as the above-mentioned exceptions to the right of access apply to its entire content, the General Secretariat of the Council is unable to give partial access.⁴

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