

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, 4 November 2024

Youpress
Mr Antoine Hasday
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Ref. 24/2670 and 24/2713

Requests made on: 17.10.2024 (registered on 18.10.2024)
and 22.10.2024

Dear Mr Hasday,

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

Please find attached a partially accessible version of the two requested documents (**ST 9941/24 and ST 14319/24**).² However, I regret to inform you that full access cannot be given for the reasons set out below.

The two documents were drawn up by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and contain respectively the text of the EU – Japan Security and Defence Partnership and the EU – Republic of Korea Security and Defence Partnership (Non-Binding Instruments Step 2).

You may have access to the two documents, with the exception of their respective page 2, which includes:

- parts containing personal data redacted in accordance with Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 and the European legislation regarding the protection of personal data³;

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).

- background and procedural details that, if released to the public, would reveal elements of the EU's strategic approach in the negotiations on the two partnerships and undermine relations with the two countries concerned.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

Enclosures: 2

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