



AFFGEN.2
Head of Division

Brussels, **14 SEP. 2020**
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2020) 5086144

Mr Matas Lasauskas

Subject: Your request for access to documents of 15 May 2020
Our ref: 2020/055

Dear Mr Lasauskas,

Thank you for your request for access to documents, which the European External Action Service (EEAS) has examined in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.¹

After a search in the EEAS filing systems, document management databases and archives, we have identified the documents referenced in Annex to this letter.

Following their examination, we are pleased to provide partial access to the **documents no 1-16, 20-22, 25-33, 35, 36, 43, 45-83**. Please note that they have been redacted in order to remove content that is out of the scope of your request, as well as personal data as per Article 4(1)(b) of the Regulation. Furthermore, redactions have been made in line with Article 4(1)(a), third indent, and Article 4(3) of the Regulation in order to remove information on diplomatic contacts and negotiating positions of the EU institutions. The disclosure of these parts would undermine EU's relations with Belarus and would adversely affect the EEAS decision-making process as regards the ongoing diplomatic negotiations on EU-Belarus Partnership Priorities. The disclosure to the public of such information would limit EEAS margin of manoeuvre and capacity of negotiation with Belarus.

In addition, please be informed that documents **no 60, 65 and 82** originate from the Lithuanian authorities, documents **no 78 and 80** from a Member of the European Parliament and document **no 83** from Belarusian authorities. We have obtained third parties' consent for disclosure, in line with Article 4(4) of the Regulation, and we are pleased to forward them in attachment to this letter.

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").

I take this opportunity to remind you that the documents provided may not be copied or reproduced for commercial purposes without prior consultation with the EEAS.

As regards the remaining **documents no 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 34, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44**, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose them neither as a whole nor partially at this point in time. These are preparatory documents for the ongoing negotiations of EU-Belarus Partnership Priorities, containing internal assessments and other elements that are part of the process to formulate negotiation positions of participating stakeholders. The disclosure to the public of these documents would harm the possibility to maintain an environment of mutual trust and serenity during our negotiations with Belarus, diminish the EEAS's margin of manoeuvre and thus hamper the decision-making process during the negotiations as per Article 4(3), first paragraph, of the Regulation. The breach of trust and the unilateral release of these documents would also undermine the EU's relations both with EU Member States and Belarus, as per Article 4(1)(a), third indent, of the Regulation. The EEAS considered whether there was an overriding public interest which would overcome the exception invoked under Article 4(3) of the Regulation, but we were not able to identify any such interest.

The EEAS regrets not to be in a position to release those documents, which are protected by the exceptions under Article 4 of the Regulation. However, in order to help you with your search for information, I would also like to refer you to the replies that EEAS and other EU institutions have provided to relevant Parliamentary questions, which you can find at the links below:

- https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2019-003796-ASW_EN.html
- https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2019-003183-ASW_EN.html
- https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2020-002274-ASW_EN.html
- https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2020-000249-ASW_EN.html

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

Yours sincerely,



Gabriele Visentin

Annexes:

1. List of documents
2. The documents in zip. file

Annex – list of documents

1. Briefing for HRVP call with Belarus' Foreign Minister, 22 April 2020
2. Report from HRVP call with Belarus' Foreign Minister, 22 April 2020
3. Ares(2020)1964929 - Belarus Monthly Political Report, March 2020
4. Ares(2020)1735700 - RUSSIAN FEDERATION - Videoconference Rosatom's "International Network" - 24/03/2020
5. Ares(2020)1532688 - Belarus – Monthly Political Report, FEBRUARY 2020 - 12/03/2020
6. Ares(2020)936242 - Report No. 9/2020 - Belarusian Energy Sector - 13/02/2020
7. Ares(2020)918072 - Report No. 8/2020 Belarus – Heads of Mission (HoMs) meeting, Minsk, 07/02/2020
8. Ares(2020)535046 - Report No. 6/2020 Belarus – Meeting with First Deputy Head of the Belarusian Presidential Administration, Minsk, 28 January 2020
9. Briefing for Commissioner visit to Belarus, meeting with the President, 30 January 2018
10. Report from EEAS Acting Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 24 January 2020
11. Briefing for EEAS Secretary General meeting with Belarus' Foreign Minister, 8 January 2020
12. Report from the EEAS Secretary General meeting with Belarus' Foreign Minister, 8 January 2020
13. Briefing for the 8th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, 17 December 2019
14. Report from the 8th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, 17 December 2019
15. Briefing for EEAS Acting Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 18 October 2019
16. Report from EEAS Acting Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 18 October 2019
17. Briefing for HRVP Mogherini Head of Cabinet call with Lithuanian Ambassador to the EU, 13 September 2019
18. Briefing for the meeting of Cabinet HRVP and Commissioners, 12 September 2019
19. Report from the meeting of Cabinet HRVP and Commissioners, 12 September 2019
20. Ares(2019)4760408 - Farewell meeting with President - 22/07/2019
21. Ares(2019)4951085 - Farewell meeting with Foreign Minister– 29/07/2019
22. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 4 June 2019
23. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director for Political and Security Committee discussion on Belarus, 20 May 2019

24. Report from the Political and Security Committee discussion on Belarus, 20 May 2019
25. Briefing for the 7th EU-Belarus Coordination Group meeting, 25 April 2019
26. Report from the 7th EU-Belarus Coordination Group meeting, 25 April 2019
27. Briefing for HRVP Head of Cabinet meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 6 March 2019
28. Report from HRVP Head of Cabinet meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 6 March 2019
29. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, 28 February 2019
30. Briefing for Commissioner mission to Minsk, meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister, 17 February 2019
31. Briefing for Commissioner mission to Minsk, meeting with Prime Minister, 17 February 2019
32. Reports from Commissioner mission to Minsk, meetings with Deputy Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, 17 February 2019
33. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 24 January 2019
34. Briefing for HRVP Head of Cabinet meeting with Lithuanian Ambassador to the EU, 9 January 2019
35. Briefing for the 6th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, December 2018
36. Report from the 6th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, December 2018
37. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Lithuanian Ambassador to the EU, 6 November 2018
38. Briefing for Commissioner visit to Minsk, meeting with Prime Minister, 17 October 2018
39. Report from Commissioner visit to Minsk, meetings with Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, 17 October 2018
40. Briefing for Commissioner meeting with Belarus' Foreign Minister, 15 October 2018
41. Briefing for HRVP Head of Cabinet meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 18 September 2018
42. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 26 July 2018
43. Briefing for Commissioner meeting with Belarus' Foreign Minister, 1 June 2018
44. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 16 May 2018
45. Briefing for HRVP meeting with Belarus' Foreign Minister, 31 May 2018
46. Ares(2019)2777400 - RUSSIAN FEDERATION - Report of the EU Deputy Heads of Missions' Coordination Meeting of 16 April 2019 - 23/04/2019
47. Briefing for the 5th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, April 2018
48. Report from the 5th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, April 2018
49. Briefing for Commissioner side meeting with Belarus' Foreign Minister at the Munich Security Conference, 17 February 2018

50. Briefing for Commissioner visit to Belarus, meeting with Foreign Minister, 30 January 2018
51. Report from Commissioner visit to Belarus, meetings with President and Foreign Minister, 30 January 2018
52. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 22 January 2018
53. Briefing for the 4th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group. December 2017
54. Report from the 4th meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group. December 2017
55. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, September 2017
56. Ares(2020)1904401 – EUD - Report of Heads of Mission meeting, Minsk, 2 April 2020
57. Briefing for EEAS Secretary General meeting with Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, 19 July 2017
58. Briefing for EEAS Secretary General meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 30 June 2017
59. Briefing for Commissioner Head of Cabinet meeting with BY Ambassador - 28 June 2017
60. Ares(2017)3132089 - Belarus NPP-ESPOO MOP7 –19/06/2017
61. Briefing for the 3rd meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, April 2017
62. Report from the 3rd meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, April 2017
63. Briefing for Commissioner meeting with Belarus' Foreign Minister, April 2017
64. Briefing for Commissioner meeting with Lithuania's Foreign Minister, April 2017
65. Ares(2017)90446 - Letter from LT ministers to several CABs - 3 January 2017
66. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, January 2017
67. Ares(2019)5157660 – EUD – Farewell visits to Prime Minister and Chairman of the Parliament
68. Report from the Political and Security Committee visit to Belarus - 20 November 2016
69. Briefing for the 2nd meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, November 2016
70. Report from the 2nd meeting of the EU-Belarus Coordination Group, November 2016
71. Briefing for the HRVP debate on Belarus in the European Parliament Plenary, October 2016
72. Briefing for HRVP meeting with Lithuania's Foreign Minister, 3 October 2016
73. Briefing for EEAS Managing Director meeting with Ambassador of Belarus to the EU, 2 September 2016
74. Ares(2016)2959698 - Report on MD Mission to Minsk and on the EU-Belarus Human Rights Dialogue, 6-8 June 2016 - 27/06/2016
75. Ares(2016)2288911 - REPLY / Letter regarding the Ostrovets Nuclear Power Plant in Belarus - 17/05/2016
76. Briefing for the 1st EU-Belarus Coordination Meeting, April 2016

77. Report from the 1st EU-Belarus Coordination Meeting, April 2016
78. Ares(2016)1326447 - Letter regarding the Ostrovets Nuclear Power Plant in Belarus (MEP to HRVP) - 16/03/2016
79. Ares(2016)698484 - REPLY / Belarusian nuclear power plant - 26/01/2016
80. Ares(2015)6029676 - Belarusian nuclear power plant
81. EEAS Managing Director meeting with Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, September 2017 report
82. Ares(2016)4167765 - Letter from LT ministers to several cabinets - 1 August 2016
83. Belarusian Non-paper on nuclear safety_ March 2016