



AFFGEN.2  
Head of Division

Brussels, 26 May 2020  
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2020) 3018245

Mr Alexander Fanta

*Subject: Your request for access to documents of 27 April 2020*  
*Our ref: 2020/050*

Dear Mr Fanta,

Thank you for your request for access to documents, which the EEAS has examined in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001<sup>1</sup>.

After a search in the EEAS filing systems, the document management databases and archives, the EEAS has identified the following documents matching your request, as referenced hereafter:

1. Draft: EEAS SPECIAL REPORT UPDATE: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation around the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic, 20 April 2020 (various iterations and versions)
2. EEAS SPECIAL REPORT UPDATE: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation around the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic, 24 April 2020

Following our examination of the documents above, I am pleased to forward to you the link to document 2: <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/eeas-special-report-update-2-22-april/>

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.

Concerning the document 1, our examination concluded that draft working versions of *Special report update: Short Assessment of Narratives and Disinformation around the COVID-19/Coronavirus Pandemic* cannot be disclosed. The versions contain opinions, reflections, views, positions and assessments for internal use as part of deliberations and

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<sup>1</sup> 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").

preliminary consultations within the institution. Public release of the working drafts of the report would seriously undermine the decision-making process as it would offer insight in the information available, the relative weight to be attributed to the information elements and the processes used to come to the determination of a final position to be reflected in the report. As regards “public security”, the various iterations of the draft report might reveal the criteria used to determine the threat to public security of disinformation items. As regards international relations, the iterations might reveal the level of knowledge of the originators of the disinformation and the nature of their affiliation with the authorities in third countries. As the report therefore contains assessments relevant to public security as well as international relations, public accessibility of the deliberations and consultations would severely curtail the possibilities of future processing of such assessments.

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 EU’s public security and international relations, as per Article 4(1) (a) 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> indent of the Regulation, as well as the EEAS decision-making process as per Article 4(3) of the Regulation.

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

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Gabriele Visentin