

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



DG Budget and Administration
The Director-General

Brussels,
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2020) 3726511

Ms Julia Reda

Subject: Your request for access to documents
Our ref: 2020/051

Dear Ms Reda,

Thank you for your confirmatory application of 4/6/2020, following your request for access to documents.

I have carefully studied your initial request, dated 28/4/2020, as well as the EEAS' reply 2020/051, which was sent to you on 3/6/2020. You initially requested documents in connection with the letter of 20/3/2020 of the EU Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, Riina Kionka to Dr. Cassius Reginald Lubisi, Director-General in the Office of the South African President, on the subject of South Africa's copyright regime, as well as any information related to the South African Draft Copyright Bill. I take note that a number of documents were sent to you in our initial reply. However, in your confirmatory application, you reiterated that you would be interested in any other internal communication ("drafts, e-mails, text messages, memos and follow-up communication") related to this letter from 20/3/2020.

Following your confirmatory application, both the relevant EEAS Division and EU Delegation in Pretoria have searched again for the documents, based on your request.

However, no additional matching documents could be found in our document management systems, databases or filing systems.

We understand that your main interest as described in your application, is the existence of the complete information held by the EEAS in relation to the letter of 20 March 2020, including internal communication, communication with the European Commission ("drafts, e-mails, text messages, memos and follow-up communication"), in connection with the letter of 20 March 2020. Therefore, allow me to explain better why no further internal communication between the EEAS and the European Commission has been identified. Please be informed that the staff of EU Delegations is composed of staff from the EEAS and staff from the European Commission who deal with matters for which the Commission is competent. DG TRADE is the European Commission's service in charge of this subject. It is also the colleagues from DG

TRADE who deal with this subject in the EU Delegation in Pretoria. Therefore, any communication having led to the letters on this subject sent by the EU Ambassador on behalf of the European Commission took place between the officials of the European Commission based in headquarters and the officials of the European Commission posted in the EU Delegation in Pretoria.

If you are not satisfied with this response you may, in accordance with Article 8 of the Regulation, institute court proceedings against the European External Action Service or make a complaint to the Ombudsman, under the conditions laid down in Articles 263 and 228 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU respectively.

Yours sincerely,

Gianmarco Di Vita

