



AFFGEN.2
Head of Division

Brussels, 12 March 2021
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2021) 1610221

Ms Julia Wagner

Subject: Your request for access to documents of 15 February 2021
Our ref: 2021/017

Dear Ms Wagner,

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

Please be informed that the requested Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies and their annual implementation reports are internal documents and contain sensitive information related to the human rights situation in Mexico, Chile and Bolivia. These documents are prepared by EU delegations and Member States' missions, following close consultation with relevant interlocutors based on a political and operational analysis of the human rights situation in a given country. They identify key strategic priorities for EU action on human rights and democracy, define long- and short-term key objectives, and set out concrete actions to advance human rights and democracy in a specific country. The strategies and their annual implementation reports constitute an essential tool in ensuring policy consistency and in preparing high-level visits and political dialogues. Furthermore, these documents entail sensitive information and internal analysis reflecting views and positions, internal assessments, and other elements intended for internal use of the EU institutions. The disclosure of these documents to the public would reveal our internal deliberations, and consequently harm the possibility to maintain an environment of mutual trust and thus undermine EU's relations with countries concerned.

Furthermore, it should be noted that documents are classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED. This security classification means that the unauthorised disclosure of the

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").

information contained in the documents is considered to be disadvantageous to the interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States.

Therefore, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose these documents at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it could seriously undermine the protection of public security, and international relations, as per Article 4(1)(a) 1st and 3rd indents, of the Regulation.

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

With regard to your request concerning *'any other document that relates to EU's strategies to promote human rights in Mexico, Chile and Bolivia'*, I am pleased to forward the Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World in 2019 attached to this letter. The 2020 Human Rights report is planned to come out in June.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Gabriele Visentin