



AFFGEN.2
Head of Division

Brussels, 12 February 2021
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2021) 907245

Mr Stefan Soesato

Subject: Your request for access to documents of 31 January 2021
Our ref: 2020/009

Dear Mr Soesanto,

Thank you for your request for access to documents, which the 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 two emails sent to EEAS Sanctions Policy Division matching your request:

- 1) Email dated 7 August 2020 (date of birth of Mr. ZHANG Shilong);
- 2) Email dated 2 October 2020 (date of birth of Mr. GAO Qiang).

We have carefully examined both these emails and came to the conclusion that their public release would harm the interests of the EU protected by the exceptions in Article 4 of the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, in particular it would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards international relations as per Article 4(1)(a), third indent, of the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

The origin of the information submitted to the EEAS cannot be publicly disclosed, since it might affect the international relations between the State that sends the information and the country of origin of the persons subject to the sanction regime. In consequence, international relations of the EU would be affected, since such a revelation would break the relationship of trust, the confidential treatment and the unconstrained flow of information between the EU institutions and the States that send relevant information to the EU for the purpose of its sanction regime.

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").

The EEAS has assessed whether any part or parts of these two documents would fall outside the exception provided in Article 4(6) of the Regulation concerning the protection of international relations, but concluded that this is not the case. Partial access to these documents is thus not possible.

Therefore, I regret to inform you that EEAS is 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 international relations, as per Article 4 (1) (a), third indent, of the Regulation 1049/2001.

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

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Gabriele Visentin