



SG.2
Acting Head of Division

Brussels, 9 February 2022
eeas.sg.2 (2022) 815474

To
Mr Martin Dudermel
by electronic mail

Subject: Your request for access to documents of 27 January 2022
Our ref: 2022/018

Dear Mr Dudermel,

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

Following your request, we have searched for the documents “1) *Correspondence between the EU and Iran regarding the opening of an EU Delegation in Iran, including related to exploratory missions in Iran and/or the EU liaison office in Tehran and/or an establishment agreement for opening an EU Delegation in Iran.* 2) *EEAS and/or Commission notes /documents regarding the opening of an EU Delegation in Iran, including related to exploratory missions in Iran and/or the EU liaison office in Tehran and/or an establishment agreement for opening an EU Delegation in Iran.* 3) *Minutes/outcome of MOG Council working group meetings related to the opening of an EU Delegation in Iran, including related to exploratory missions in Iran and/or the EU liaison office in Tehran and/or an establishment agreement for opening an EU Delegation in Iran*” in the EEAS filing systems, document management databases and archives.

Please be informed that the EEAS has identified three documents matching your request and all of them concern the financial administration of the EU liaison team’s expenditures in Tehran. Given Iran’s role in the regional and international context, the opening of an EU Delegation in this country is a key priority for the EU’s external action. Currently, the relevant negotiations with the Iranian authorities are not concluded and are taking place within a framework of absolute confidentiality, taking into account that the ultimate decision rests

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").

with the Iranian government, in accordance to the established principles of international relations. To this end, an environment of mutual trust with the Iranian interlocutors is a prime requirement for the ongoing negotiations to succeed. The disclosure of these documents at this moment in time would hamper the negotiation process and will ultimately impact the EU's international relations with Iran.

Therefore, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose the above-mentioned documents at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards international relations, as per Article 4(1)(a), third indent, 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]

Guillem Riutord Sampol