



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate G - External Relations  
**The Director**

Brussels  
SG.G.1/DT

**Dear Lord Crawford,**

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2022/1308**

We refer to your request for access to documents dated and registered on 04/03/2022 under the above mentioned reference number.

You request access to:

“Records — including emails, notes and correspondence — regarding every meeting and videoconference held by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen with Volodymyr Zelenskyy regarding Russian aggression/invasion of Ukraine.”

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, we regret to inform you that your application cannot be granted, as disclosure is prevented by exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of this Regulation.

The documents which you seek to obtain contain sensitive information regarding the EU strategic relations with Ukraine, including after Russia’s recent invasion. Disclosure of the documents requested would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards international relations because it would reveal information that can be used by third countries to bring an undue pressure on the Commission and unduly limit the room for manoeuvre of the European Union on the international stage. Disclosure would therefore jeopardise the European Union's international position.

The third indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 provides that ‘[t]he institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of [...] the public interest as regards [...] international relations [...]’.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Lord Dillon Crawford  
16 Legate Place  
Clifton  
Bedfordshire  
SG17 5GU  
UK

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretary-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission, Secretary-General

Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1) BERL 7/076

B-1049 Bruxelles or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours faithfully,

Electronically signed

Michael KARNITSCHNIG