



**SG.2**  
**Head of Division**

Brussels, 30 March 2023  
eeas.sg.2 (2023) 2229076

To  
Mr Luis Miguel Hurtado Coronado  
by electronic mail

*Subject: Your request for access to documents of 27 February 2023*  
*EEAS ref: 2023/035*

Dear Mr Hurtado Coronado,

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.<sup>1</sup>

Following your application, we have searched for the requested documents “1.- All briefings, minutes of meetings and correspondence -both analogic and digital-, since March 1st 2020, between the former EU Ambassador to Rwanda, Nicola Bellomo, and/or the current EU Ambassador to Rwanda, Belen Calvo Uyarra, and/or the former EU Ambassador to Mozambique, António-Sanchez Gaspar, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, and/or his deputy head of cabinet, Mathieu Briens, and/or his senior advisor, Anne Bergenfelt, and or his cabinet expert Maud Arnould in which the Mozambique LNG Project and/or the Islamic State terrorist threat in Mozambique were discussed, and/or “Crystal Ventures Ltd.” was mentioned. 2.- All briefings, minutes of meetings and correspondence -both analogic and digital- since March 1st 2021, between the former French Ambassador to Mozambique, David Izzo and/or the former French Ambassador to Mozambique, Bruno Clerc, and/or the former French minister for Ecological Transition, Barbara Pompili, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, and/or his deputy head of cabinet, Mathieu Briens, and/or his senior advisor, Anne Bergenfelt, and or his cabinet expert Maud Arnould in which the Mozambique LNG Project and/or the Islamic State terrorist threat in Mozambique were discussed. 3.- All briefings, minutes of meetings and correspondence -both analogic and digital- since March 1st 2021, between the former Portuguese Ambassador to

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<sup>1</sup> 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").

*Mozambique, António Costa Moura and/or the Portuguese minister for the Environment and Climate Action, Joao Pedro Matos Fernandes, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, and/or his deputy head of cabinet, Mathieu Briens, and/or his senior advisor, Anne Bergenfelt, and or his cabinet expert Maud Arnould in which the Rovuma Basin LNG Projects and/or the Islamic State terrorist threat in Mozambique were discussed”, in the EEAS filing systems and document management databases.*

After this search, the EEAS has identified the following document matching your application, as referenced hereafter:

1. Briefing book for the visit to Mozambique of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice President of the European Commission (HR/VP) on 8-9 September 2022 (final version of 07/09/2022) (document 1).

This document contains information, opinions and assessments drawn up for internal use in order for the EEAS to prepare the above-mentioned visit and to brief the HR/VP. It is a diplomatic briefing which contains sensitive elements such as an internal assessment of the security situation in the country, an internal assessment of the policies implemented by the Government of Mozambique, including on defence, military and public security matters, an internal assessment of the intentions of the Government of Mozambique towards the EU, as well as the EU priorities and negotiation positions vis-à-vis Mozambique.

The public disclosure of this document would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards public security, defence and military matters and international relations - Article 4(1)(a) first, second and third indents.

Our examination concluded that its disclosure to the general public would undermine the EU's margin of manoeuvre in future exchanges with the Government of Mozambique, since it would reveal internal considerations, negotiation positions and the degree or the willingness to reach a compromise in certain areas.

The public release of this document would also be a breach of the confidentiality of the diplomatic exchanges with Mozambique and would undermine the EU's relations with this country by harming the possibility of maintaining an environment of mutual trust and serenity in our upcoming dialogues with our interlocutors on sensitive defence, military and public security matters.

Therefore, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose document 1 at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards public security, defence and military, international relations, as well as the decision-making process as per Article 4(1) (a), first, second and third indents.

We have considered whether partial access could be granted to document 1 requested. However, since the vast majority of the substantive parts of the document is covered by the invoked exceptions, granting a partial access, albeit marginal, to the remaining part would entail revealing information the protection of which is covered by the exception relied on, relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security, defence and military matters, international relations and the decision-making process as explained above.<sup>2</sup>

Should you wish this position to be reviewed, you may make a confirmatory application within 15 working days in accordance with Article 7(2) of the Regulation.

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<sup>2</sup> See Judgment of 7 February 2018, *Access Info Europe v Commission*, T-851/16, EU:T:2018:69, paragraphs 122 and 123.

Yours sincerely,

*[e-signed]*

Nereo Penalver Garcia