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Access to Documents Correspondent

Brussels, 04 Jul. 24
eeas.sg.ld (2024) 4596673

To
Mr Kamiel Vermeulen
by electronic mail

Subject: Your request for access to documents of 30 May 2024
EEAS reference: 2024/104

Dear Mr Vermeulen,

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 application, we have searched for the requested “*documents which contain the following information: All the meetings between Maud Arnould, member of cabinet of HR/VP Josep Borrell, and Rwandan authorities or persons working for the Rwandan authorities since her appointment to the cabinet in 2019.*” in the EEAS filing systems and document management databases.

I regret to inform you that no documents matching your request have been identified. In fact, there is no document, within the EEAS, which lists all or some of such meetings. As specified in Article 2(3) of the Regulation, the right of access as defined in that Regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution. Given that no such documents, corresponding to the description given in your application, are held by the EEAS, we are not in a position to fulfil your request.

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.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, of 31.5.2001, p. 43, hereafter the "Regulation"), as applied by the EEAS pursuant to Article 11(1) of the Council Decision 2010/427/EU of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (OJ L 201, of 3.8.2010, p. 30).

The fact that the EEAS did not identify any document matching your application does not exclude that Ms Arnould attended meetings involving counterparts from Rwanda, in presence of her political authorities or on their behalf. The nature of Ms Arnould's functions within the Cabinet of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy includes regular and sometimes discreet contacts with African authorities and various stakeholders. Moreover, Ms Arnould has over 20 years of professional experience as foreign policy expert on Africa and she naturally has, over the years, built an extensive network of different stakeholders across Africa, including in Rwanda.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Ludovic Promelle