



**AFFGEN.2**  
**Head of Division**

Brussels, **18 SEP. 2020**  
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2020)

Mr Stefan Soesanto

*Subject: Your request for access to documents of 24 August 2020*  
*Our ref: 2020/086*

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.<sup>1</sup>

The requested document EEAS (2016)1597 'The EU Concept on Cyber Defence for EU-led Military Operations and Missions' contains sensitive information about the planning and conduct of Cyber Defense operations for EU-led military operations and missions. It also comprises information on functioning of military Cyber Defence planning processes, capabilities and limitations of Headquarters and Forces to protect the systems, as well as on information processing, sharing and reporting within and between the EU military organisations. The disclosure of such sensitive information would undermine the protection of defence and military matters, thus seriously undermining and disrupting the work and operational capabilities of EU military forces engaged in EU operations and missions, as well as other allied, partner or international organisations. In addition, such disclosure would allow to draw conclusions about work processes and decision-making of the EU institutions in the area of cyber defence, in particular of the EU military organisations.

Therefore, I regret to inform you that we are 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

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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").

protection of defence and military matters and international relations, as per Article 4(1)(a), 2nd and 3rd indents, of the Regulation.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'GV', is positioned above the printed name.

Gabriele Visentin