



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

Brussels, 5 March 2021  
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2021) 1705147

Mr Tommaso Angelini Battaglia

*Subject: Your request for access to documents of 24 February 2021*  
*Our ref: 2021/036*

Dear Mr Battaglia,

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 request, we have identified the document **HR (2020)54** which contains the annual report from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Council on the status of implementation of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

The document contains sensitive information from the national implementation plans of the participating Member States, which they provide as a basis for the ongoing assessment and review of, among other things, objectives, investments, ongoing and new projects as well as the fulfilment of strategic and operational commitments by each participating Member State in accordance with its national implementation plan. It also contains recommendations for optimizing implementation mechanisms and exchange of information.

Taking due account of the content of the document and on the basis of its internal and external consultations, the EEAS has come to the conclusion that disclosure of the document in full

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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").

would undermine the EU's action in this sensitive area and would also have a negative impact on its international relations.

Therefore, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose the document you requested in full at this point in time, since it could seriously undermine the international relations as per Article 4(1)(a)3<sup>rd</sup> indent of the Regulation.

However, I am pleased to forward to you, attached to this letter, the parts of the document that are publicly available and thus not covered by the above-mentioned exceptions.

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

Yours sincerely,

*[e-signed]*

Gabriele Visentin