



EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)

D1 Planning, Knowledge and Compliance
Head of Unit

Brussels,
REA D1.003

Mr Matteo Ottaviani
Erfprins 18
Oegstgeest
The Netherlands

Sent by registered email to:
[ask+request-16803-
d4e96c26@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-16803-d4e96c26@asktheeu.org)

Subject: Reply to your request for access to documents – Ref. Ares(2026)1248252

Dear Mr Ottaviani,

We refer to your access to documents request submitted to the European Research Executive Agency (REA) on 3 February 2026 via the website AskTheEU.org and registered on 4 February 2026 under reference number Ares(2026)1248252. We acknowledged the receipt of your request¹ and on 5 February 2026 we asked you to clarify your request. With your email of 9 February 2026, you clarified your request, and we let you know that the 15 working days' time limit for handling your application start running when your clarification was received and therefore would expire on 2 March 2026².

A. SCOPE OF YOUR REQUEST

In your application, you requested:

“[...] All correspondence related to audits, internal checks, and verification procedures, specifically including:

-letters sent by the Research Executive Agency to the institution identified by PIC number 999990849 during the year 2024,

-communications informing the institution of the initiation or outcome of checks or audits, and

¹ Ares(2026)1248705

² Ares(2026)2197699

-any decision letters of 2024 concerning the recovery of EU funds related to eventually sampled projects [...]”.

You clarified your request as such:

“[...] I am specifically seeking:

Documents sent by REA in the year 2024;

In particular, any letter sent by REA to the institution in 2024 announcing a check or ex post audit of the entity with PIC number 999990849;

Any decision letters issued in 2024, following such an audit, concerning the recovery of EU funds from the entity with PIC number 999990849.”

This request is handled within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (hereinafter “Regulation 1049/2001”)³.

B. DISCLOSURE OF THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTS

We examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents.

As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that Regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution.

We hereby inform you that REA does not possess any documents corresponding to your request. In 2024, REA has not sent a letter to the institution with PIC number 999990849 announcing a check or ex post audit and has not sent or issued a decision letter to the same entity after an audit relating to the recovery of EU funds from this institution.

Given that no such document, corresponding to the description specified in your application, is held by REA, we are not able to send you any such documents.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Director of the REA to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to Mr Marc TACHELET, Director of the REA, at the following address:

European Research Executive Agency (REA)
SB34, floor 8

³ Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, OJ L145, 31.05.2001, page 43, hereinafter “Regulation 1049/2001”.

1049 Brussels

Or by e-mail to: marc.tachelet@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

Gaia FANTECHI

Acting Head of Unit