



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

Brussels, 21 January 2021  
eeas.sg.affgen.2 (2020) 7982416

Ms Rita Costa

*Subject: Your request for access to documents of 2 November 2020*  
*Our ref: 2020/114*

Dear Ms Costa,

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>

After a search in the EEAS filing systems, document management databases and archives, the EEAS has identified the following documents matching your request, as referenced hereafter:

1. Annual 2013 CSDP Lessons Report (EEAS 00407/14), dated 12 March 2014.
2. Annual 2014 CSDP Lessons Report, EEAS (2015) 256, doc. 6777/15, dated 23 February 2015.
3. Annual 2015 CSDP Lessons Report, EEAS (2016) 536, doc. 8213/16, dated 21 April 2016.
4. Annual 2016 CSDP Lessons Report, EEAS (2017) 252, doc. 9159/17, dated 12 May 2017.
5. Report on Civilian CSDP Lessons 2017, EEAS (2018) 646, doc. 9883/18, dated 6 June 2018.
6. EUMS Annual Lessons and Best Practice Report 2017, EEAS(2018)7, dated 4 January 2018.
7. CPCC Report on Civilian CSDP Lessons 2018, EEAS(2019) 302, doc. 8064/19, dated 14 March 2019.

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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").

8. EUMS Annual Lessons and Best Practice Report 2018, EEAS(2019) 364, dated 28 March 2019.
9. 2019 EEAS Conflict prevention and Crisis Response Lessons Report, EEAS(2020) 682, doc. 9510/20, dated 9 July 2020.
10. The EEAS Commission issues paper on the Integrated Approach, EEAS/COM(2017)8
11. CMC EUFOR RCA: ST5984/14 Draft Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for a possible EU Military CSDP mission in the Central African Republic
12. CMC EUMAM RCA: ST16950/14 Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for a possible EU Military CSDP mission in the Central African Republic
13. CMC EUTM RCA: EEAS(2016)163 Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for a possible EU CSDP military training mission in the Central African Republic
14. CMC EUAM RCA: EEAS(2019)1103 Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for a possible EU CSDP civilian advisory mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA)
15. EEAS 02083/14 - Central African Republic, a Political Framework for Crisis Approach (PFCA)
16. EEAS(2018)5588575 - Central African Republic - EU Political Framework for Crisis Approach (PFCA)

Following your request, I am pleased to forward to you the documents no 1, 4, 5, 7 and 10 in attachment to this letter.

The documents **EEAS(2015)256** and **EEAS(2016)536** “Annual CSDP Lessons Reports” contain detailed information about the planning and conduct of military CSDP missions. They describe the EU crisis management actions in third states, including operational aspects regarding safety and security of the CSDP missions and of their personnel. Full disclosure of the documents could seriously undermine the protection of the public interest as regards defence and military matters. In addition, some parts of the document include assessments whose unilateral disclosure would undermine international relations, as well as public security.

Therefore, we are not in a position to disclose these documents in full. However, I am pleased to forward to you, attached to this letter, the parts of the documents **EEAS(2015)256** and **EEAS(2016)536** that are publicly available and thus not covered by the above-mentioned exceptions.

The document **EEAS(2020)682** “EEAS Conflict Prevention and Crisis Response Lessons Report” has been drawn up by the EEAS for the Political and Security Committee (PSC). It has been compiled as a follow-up instrument to contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy. It is one of the elements of the reporting exercise aiming to share analyses and assessments on a wide variety of crisis management scenarios among the CSDP operations/missions partners. Furthermore, the document was prepared with the aim to improve organisational learning, to facilitate a more integrated approach to conflicts and crisis and to plan for tangible remedial - improvement actions on the ground, very often organised in close cooperation with third countries and international partner organisations. The information contained in this document is collected

from the EU Member States' authorities and shared with EEAS on a confidential basis. The public disclosure of this information would lead to erosion of the confidence among parties, partners and allies, who will no longer trust EU for information sharing.

Given the above-mentioned elements, full disclosure of this strategic document could prejudice the operational functioning of the current civilian missions and military operations that operate in very volatile theatres of operations, including their personnel and crisis management capacity development plans, thus having a negative impact on public interest as regards public security, defence and military matters, and the EU's international relations.

Nevertheless, I have the pleasure to forward the chapter 1 ("Introduction to the EEAS CPCR Lessons Process") and the initial sentence of chapter 2 ("Recent institutional changes within the EEAS") of the document, in attachment to this letter.

I take this opportunity to remind you that the documents provided may be reused given that the source is acknowledged and that you do not distort the original meaning or message of the documents.

Please note that the EEAS does not assume liability stemming from the reuse. In case of doubt on reuse, please do contact the EEAS for prior authorisation.

The documents **EEAS(2018)7** and **EEAS(2019)364** "EUMS Annual Lessons and Best Practice Reports" contain detailed information about the planning and conduct of military CSDP missions. They are describing the EU crisis management actions in thirds states, including operational aspects regarding safety and security of CSDP missions and of their personnel. Disclosure of the documents could seriously undermine the protection of the public interest as regards defence and military matters. In addition, some parts of the document include assessments where unilateral disclosure would undermine international relations, as well as public security.

The documents **ST5984/14**, **ST16950/14**, **EEAS(2016)163** and **EEAS(2019)1103** "Crisis Management Concepts" are internal planning documents relating to CSDP operations and missions and containing sensitive information and are classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED. This security classification means that an unauthorised disclosure of the information contained in the documents could be disadvantageous to the interests of the European Union or of one or more of the Member States. The documents contain details on the organisation of the possible military operation in Central African Republic (CAR) and relate to planning modalities for the deployment of mission personnel in the framework of a Civilian CSDP mission in CAR. The disclosure of such sensitive information would undermine the protection of critical defence and military matters, thus seriously undermining and disrupting the movement, maintenance and operational capabilities of EU military forces engaged in CSDP missions in CAR, as well as other allied, partner or international organisations. In addition, some parts of the documents include assessments where unilateral disclosure would undermine international relations.

The documents **EEAS 02083/14** and **EEAS(2018)5588575** "Political Framework for Crisis Approach (PFCA)" contain detailed information about EU analysis and recommendations for EU engagement in the country, including in the field of security. Disclosure could hamper the conduct of EU policy, including CSDP missions, operating in highly sensitive environment. In addition, some parts of the documents describe the EU engagement in third states, including in crisis management field. Their unilateral disclosure would undermine international relations, as well as public security.

Therefore, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose the documents **EEAS(2018)7**, **EEAS(2019)364**, **ST5984/14**, **ST16950/14**, **EEAS(2016)163**, **EEAS(2019)1103**, **EEAS 02083/14** and **EEAS(2018)5588575** at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it could seriously undermine the protection of public security, defence and military matters, and international relations, as per Article 4(1)(a) 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> indents, of the Regulation.

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

Yours sincerely,

*[e-signed]*

Gabriele Visentin