



**Council of the European Union**  
General Secretariat

Directorate-General Communication and Information - COMM  
Directorate Information and Outreach  
Information Services Unit / Transparency  
*Head of Unit*

Brussels, 14 June 2024

Mr Nikolaj Nielsen  
Email: ask+request-14568-daaad8ac@asktheeu.org

Ref. 24/1473

Request made on: 14.05.2024  
Deadline extension: 05.06.2024

Dear Mr Nielsen,

Thank you for your request for access to documents of the Council of the European Union.<sup>1</sup>

I regret to inform you that access to document **ST 9279/24** cannot be given for the reasons set out below.

Document **ST 9279/24** of 23 April 2024 is a note from the General Secretariat of the Council to delegations on *Egypt - Commission's intention to enter into discussions on behalf of the EU on a non-legally binding Joint Statement aiming to establish a Migration and Mobility Partnership with the Arab Republic of Egypt*.

Having consulted the European Commission who is the originating source of the document, I have to inform you that the European Commission does not consent to public access to the requested documents.

The release of the information contained in this document would have a negative impact on the relations between the European Union and Egypt. Should the internal EU information and considerations about EU-Egypt relations in terms of migration management, as well as concerns of both parties on these aspects, be made public, particularly in view of the sensitivities regarding the

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<sup>1</sup> The General Secretariat of the Council has examined your request on the basis of the applicable rules: 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, 31.5.2001, p. 43) and the specific provisions concerning public access to Council documents set out in Annex II to the Council's Rules of Procedure (Council Decision No 2009/937/EU, OJ L 325, 11.12.2009, p. 35).

bilateral relation, it could create harm or embarrassment in the bilateral relations. As a consequence, the General Secretariat has to refuse access to this document.<sup>2</sup>

We have also looked into the possibility of releasing parts of the document.<sup>3</sup> However, as the exception to the right of access applies to its entire content, the General Secretariat is unable to give partial access.

Pursuant to Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you may ask the Council to review this decision within 15 working days of receiving this reply. Should you see the need for such a review, you are invited to indicate the reasons thereof.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando FLORINDO

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<sup>2</sup> Article 4(1)(a), third indent, of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

<sup>3</sup> Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.