



SG.2
Head of Division

Brussels, 20 February
eeas.sg.2 (2023) 1719682

To
Mr Philémon Mallet
by electronic mail

Subject: Your request for access to documents of 15 February 2023
EEAS ref: 2023/010

Dear Mr Mallet,

I would like to thank you for your request for access to documents, which the EEAS has examined in the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.¹

Following your application, we have searched for the requested documents “1) *Agenda of Ibrahim Abbas during this visit in Brussels* 2) *Agenda of the meeting he took part in with EEAS MENA Managing Director Le Gal* 3) *Minutes of this meeting* 4) *All documents, reports, presentations, audio/visual content, emails shared in the framework of this visit, including before, during and after the visit.* 5) *Name, position and organisation of origin of all participants to this meeting. If this request cannot be satisfied due to data protection matters, I agree to narrow it to the organisation of origin of the participants*”, in the EEAS filing systems and document management databases.

After this search, the EEAS has identified the following document matching your application, as referenced hereafter:

1. Internal read-out of the dinner (1 February 2023) hosted by the Lebanese embassy between General Abbas Ibrahim and EEAS MENA Managing Director H. Le Gal, dated 3 February 2023.

Our examination concluded that the above-mentioned document contains sensitive assessments delivered by a third party of the regional political and security situation in the Middle East and Lebanon in particular.

¹ 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").

The disclosure of this document to the general public would undermine the protection of international relations as per Article 4(1)(a), third indent of the Regulation inasmuch as it would harm the possibility of maintaining an environment of mutual trust in upcoming diplomatic and security dialogues and would seriously undermine the EU's bilateral relations with the third parties mentioned in this read-out.

Therefore, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose this document at this point in time, neither as a whole or partially, since it would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards international relations, as per Article 4(1)(a), third indent of the Regulation.

We have considered whether partial access could be granted to the document requested. However, since the vast majority of the substantive parts of the document are covered by the invoked exceptions, granting a partial access, albeit marginal, to the remaining part would entail revealing information the protection of which is covered by the exception relied on, relating to the protection of international relations as explained above.²

Should you wish this position to be reviewed, you may make a confirmatory application within 15 working days in accordance with Article 7(2) of the Regulation.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Nereo Penalver Garcia

² See Judgment of 7 February 2018, *Access Info Europe v Commission*, T-851/16, EU:T:2018:69, paragraphs 122 and 123.