



**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, 30 August 2022

Mr Davide Giovannelli  
Email: ask+request-11584-9e09c2b8@asktheeu.org

Ref. 22/1541-lk/ns

Request made on: 15.07.2022  
Deadline extension: 08.08.2022

Dear Mr Giovannelli,

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 **WK 5908/2022** cannot be given for the reasons set out below.

Document WK 5908/2022 is a Note from the European External Action Service (EEAS) to the Council's Political and Security Committee. It sets out the lessons learnt so far from two exercises conducted by the EEAS in 2021 at EU level on how to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the EU's diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities, as well as recommendations on the way forward.

Release of the information contained in this document would reveal valuable strategic details to adverse actors about how the EU designs and exercises its engagement in cybersecurity, including through joint diplomatic responses to malicious cyber activities and available margins of manoeuvre.

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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).

Disclosure of the document would therefore undermine the protection of the public interest as regards public security. 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), first indent, of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

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