



SG.2
Head of Division

Brussels, 9 June 2022
eeas.sg.2 (2022) 3511917

To
Mr Samuel Stolton
by electronic mail

Subject: Your request for access to documents of 26 April 2022
Our ref: 2022/073

Dear Mr Stolton,

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 request, we have searched for “*documents that pay reference to the European Union's plans to establish new representation in San Francisco*” in the EEAS filing systems and document management databases.

After this search, the EEAS has identified the following documents matching your request, as referenced hereafter:

1. Note the attention of Helga Schmid, Secretary General of the European External Action Service;
2. Note to the attention of Ilze Juhansone, Secretary General of the European Commission;
3. A certain number of written material;
4. A certain number of email correspondences.

Please note that these documents contain internal opinions, assessments and scenarios which are part of on-going deliberations and consultations within the EEAS, and between EEAS and the European Commission, with regards to the establishment of a European Union presence in San Francisco. Public disclosure of these documents intended for internal considerations and consultations between the EEAS and other Commission services, would

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").

seriously undermine the decision-making process, by revealing the scope of such considerations, which are still open for discussion and are not definitive.

Following our examination, I regret to inform you that we are not in a position to disclose these documents at this point in time since it would seriously undermine the decision-making process, as per Article 4(3) first subparagraph of the Regulation 1049/2001.

We also considered the possibility of a partial access, but it does not seem to be feasible, since the vast majority of the substantive part of these documents is covered by the invoked exceptions. We were also not able to identify any overriding public interest in disclosure.

Should you wish this position to be reviewed, you may confirm your initial request by lodging a confirmatory application within 15 working days in accordance with Article 7(2) of the Regulation 1049/2001.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Nereo Penalver Garcia