



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR DIGITAL SERVICES

The Director-General

Mr COTTICA Alberto
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1190 Forest
Belgium

**By email with acknowledgement
of receipt to:**

[ask+request-15638-
b6fab33c@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-15638-b6fab33c@asktheeu.org)

Subject: Your application for access to documents – EASE 2025/1250

Dear Mr COTTICA,

We refer to your request for access to European Commission documents registered on the 3rd of March 2025 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to “*documents which contain the following information:*”

- *What is your assessment of the security risks associated to using cloud services located in third countries (notably the USA) for the IT infrastructure of European institutions?*
- *On what basis was the decision to do strategic procurement – i.e. mandating that cloud services only be purchased from businesses headquartered in one of the Union's member states – NOT made?”.*

We regret to inform you that DG DIGIT does not hold any documents that would correspond to the description given in your request.

As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution.

Concerning the first part of your request, please note that the European Commission limits its cloud services to be operated within the EU by general principle.

Concerning the second part of your request, we would like to point out that the Commission adheres to binding public procurement rules when contracting cloud providers. These rules stipulate that companies registered in EU Member States or in third countries that are party

to the Government Procurement Agreement have, in principle, access to European procurement procedures, including the ones of the European Commission.

In addition, we kindly refer you to the following publicly available documents, which you might find helpful:

- the [European Commission Digital Strategy](#),
- the [European Commission Cloud Strategy](#) and
- the [European Data Union Strategy](#), through which the Commission aims at strengthening the position of Europe's cloud industry and preventing any misuse of our most sensitive data.

Finally, we would like to note that the European Commission has contracts with European providers for the provision of cloud services, as can be seen in the publicly available [Financial Transparency System](#).

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed to the Secretariat-General of the Commission within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter. You can submit it in one of the following ways:

by asking for a review via your portal account (available only for initial requests submitted via the portal account), ⁽¹⁾

or by mail:

European Commission
Secretariat-General
Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)
BERL 7/076
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

Veronica Gaffey

⁽¹⁾ [Electronic Access to Commission Documents \(EASE\) \(europa.eu\)](#)