

Brussels, 18 June 2025
(OR. en)

10457/25

API 59
INF 105

NOTE

Subject: Public access to documents
- Confirmatory Application N° 14/c/01/25

Delegations will find attached:

- the request for access to documents sent to the General Secretariat of the Council on 20 May 2025 (*Annex 1*);
- the request for clarification from the General Secretariat of the Council dated 13 June 2025 (*Annex 2*);
- the confirmatory application received on 17 June 2025 at 13:05 and registered on the same day (*Annex 3*);
- the reply to the clarification request (contained at Annex 2) received on 17 June 2025 at 15:52 (thus after the confirmatory application (contained at Annex 3)) (*Annex 4*).

From: document-request@cis.consilium.europa.eu <document-request@cis.consilium.europa.eu>

Sent: Tuesday 20 May 2025 14:54

To: TRANSPARENCY Access to documents (COMM) <Access@consilium.europa.eu>

Subject: Consilium - Electronic Request for Access to documents [ENGLISH]

This e-mail has been sent to access@consilium.europa.eu using the electronic form available in the Register application.

This electronic form has been submitted in ENGLISH.

Title

DELETED

First name

DELETED

Family name

DELETED

E-mail **

DELETED

Occupation

Law firm

I submit this request on my own behalf.

Name of the organisation

Full postal address **

DELETED

Telephone

Requested document(s)

Dear Madam, Sir,

On 13 May 2025, the Council adopted Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/904 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP and Council Regulation (EU) 2025/903 amending Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 (the “Acts of 13 May 2025”).

We note that in recitals 2 through 5 of Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/904, the Council refers to a number of findings which led to the adoption of the Acts of 13 May, including inter alia:

Recital (2): “The Council has assessed that a relationship of mutual benefit and support exists between the Government of the Russian Federation and leading businesspersons operating in Russia.”

Recital (3): “The Council has assessed that leading businesspersons operating in Russia continue to benefit from the Government of the Russian Federation, and vice versa, since the imposition of restrictive measures by the Union in response to Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.”

Recital (4): “The Council has also observed that certain leading businesspersons have engaged in a systematic practice of transferring shares or resigning from leading functions, often in order to hide their assets or to circumvent Union restrictive measures while maintaining control over the resources available to them.”

Recital (5): “Furthermore, it is also appropriate to presume that modifications to the ownership structures concerning, or to the positions of, leading businesspersons following their initial listing do not affect their socio-economic situation as demonstrated at the time of initial listing. It is also appropriate to presume that transfers that happened on or after 24 February 2022 involving, directly or indirectly, leading businesspersons facilitated the obfuscation of ownership interests or control and thereby significantly frustrate Union restrictive measures.”

Considering that, as you would be aware, we are involved in a number of proceedings concerning the designation of persons listed under the “leading businessperson” criterion, we respectfully request the information and evidence constituting the basis on which those findings were made to be disclosed to us. If there is no such information or evidence beyond the information contained in the aforementioned recitals, we request a confirmation to that effect.

Yours sincerely

DELETED

1st option

EN

2nd option

FR

This is an automatic reply from the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union concerning your request for access to Council documents.

This notification was sent from an unattended mailbox. Please do not reply.

From: TRANSPARENCY Access to documents (COMM) <Access@consilium.europa.eu>

Sent: Friday 13 June 2025 07:59

To: **DELETED**

Subject: RE: Consilium - Electronic Request for Access to documents [ENGLISH]

Dear **DELETED**,

In your request below, you refer to the fact that you “are involved in a number of proceedings concerning the designation of persons listed under the ‘leading businessperson’ criterion”. This leaves us in doubt about the exact nature of your request.

Could you therefore please clarify whether you are asking for public access with erga omnes effects based on Regulation 1049/2001, or privileged access based on rights of defence. In the latter case we would need copies of powers of attorney for specific clients for whom you are requesting such access.

Based on your clarification, we will then either register your request under Regulation 1049/2001 or pass it on to the relevant services of the General Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,

Transparency



Council of the European Union

General Secretariat

Communication and Information

Knowledge Management

Transparency

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, 175 - B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel - Belgique/België

www.consilium.europa.eu | access@consilium.europa.eu

Disclaimer: The views expressed are solely those of the writer and may not be regarded as stating an official position of the Council of the EU

Clause de non-responsabilité: Les avis exprimés n'engagent que leur auteur et ne peuvent être considérés comme une position officielle du Conseil de l'UE

From: document-request@cis.consilium.europa.eu <document-request@cis.consilium.europa.eu>
Sent: Tuesday 17 June 2025 13:05
To: TRANSPARENCY Access to documents (COMM) <Access@consilium.europa.eu>
Subject: Consilium - Electronic Request for Access to documents [ENGLISH]

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Title

DELETED

First name

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Family name

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E-mail

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Occupation

Law firm

I submit this request on my own behalf.

Name of the organisation

Full postal address

Telephone

Requested document(s)

Confirmatory Application

I lodged a request for information under Regulation (EC) No 1049/200 with the Council on 20 May 2025. In accordance with Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/200, the time limit for a response to a request is 15 working days from registration of the application, thus 13 June 2025. Since I have not received a reply from you within that time limit, I hereby make a confirmatory application in accordance with Article 7(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/200 for the documents underlying the following Recitals:

On 13 May 2025, the Council adopted Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/904 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP and Council Regulation (EU) 2025/903 amending Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 (the "Acts of 13 May 2025").

I noted that in recitals 2 through 5 of Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/904, the Council refers to a number of findings which led to the adoption of the Acts of 13 May, including inter alia:

Recital (2): "The Council has assessed that a relationship of mutual benefit and support exists between the Government of the Russian Federation and leading businesspersons operating in Russia."

Recital (3): “The Council has assessed that leading businesspersons operating in Russia continue to benefit from the Government of the Russian Federation, and vice versa, since the imposition of restrictive measures by the Union in response to Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.”

Recital (4): “The Council has also observed that certain leading businesspersons have engaged in a systematic practice of transferring shares or resigning from leading functions, often in order to hide their assets or to circumvent Union restrictive measures while maintaining control over the resources available to them.”

Recital (5): “Furthermore, it is also appropriate to presume that modifications to the ownership structures concerning, or to the positions of, leading businesspersons following their initial listing do not affect their socio-economic situation as demonstrated at the time of initial listing. It is also appropriate to presume that transfers that happened on or after 24 February 2022 involving, directly or indirectly, leading businesspersons facilitated the obfuscation of ownership interests or control and thereby significantly frustrate Union restrictive measures.”

I respectfully request the information and evidence constituting the basis on which those findings were made to be disclosed to me. If there is no such information or evidence beyond the information contained in the aforementioned recitals, I request a confirmation to that effect.

1st option

EN

2nd option

FR

This is an automatic reply from the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union concerning your request for access to Council documents.

This notification was sent from an unattended mailbox. Please do not reply.

From: **DELETED**
Sent: Tuesday 17 June 2025 15:52
To: TRANSPARENCY Access to documents (COMM) <Access@consilium.europa.eu>; **DELETED**
Cc: **DELETED**
Subject: RE: Consilium - Electronic Request for Access to documents [ENGLISH]

Dear Sir, Madam,

To clarify, I wish to make a request for public access based on Regulation 1049/2001.

We made a parallel request for privileged access to the general secretariat, but this present request, submitted via the online form, falls under the transparency rules of Regulation 1049/2001.

Yours sincerely,

DELETED