

Brussels, 8 May 2026  
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INF 137

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Public access to documents – Confirmatory application No 26/c/01/26 —  
Information for delegations

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Delegations will find enclosed:

- the request for access to documents sent to the General Secretariat of the Council on 19 March 2026 and registered on 20 March 2026 (Annex 1);
- the reply of the General Secretariat of the Council dated 7 May 2026 (Annex 2);
- the confirmatory application dated 7<sup>o</sup>May 2026 and registered on the same day (Annex 3).

**From:** **DELETED**

**Sent:** Thursday, March 19, 2026, 11:54 PM

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

**Subject:** Consilium - Request for access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 - Documents relating to the 'Epstein files'


Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a digitally signed request for access under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

A response is expected within the deadlines set out in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.


Yours sincerely,

**DELETED**



To the Council of the European Union

**Subject:** Access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 - Documents relating to the 'Epstein files'



#### **Having regard to**

- Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, and
- the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Articles 41 (good administration) and 42 (access to documents);

#### **Requests access**

to a digital certified copy of the following documentation:

- all documents, communications and text messages (SMS, iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal or similar) exchanged between the Council, or its officials, and other EU agencies or institutions, governments and/or institutions of EU Member States and non-EU countries, citizens and natural or legal persons, concerning the disclosure by the government of the United States of America of the 'Epstein files', i.e. the documents gathered during the judicial proceedings against the late Jeffrey Epstein;
- all documents, communications and text messages (SMS, iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal or similar) exchanged between the Council, or its officials, and other EU agencies or institutions, governments and/or institutions of EU Member States and non-EU countries, citizens and natural or legal persons, that shed light on any relationships of a financial and/or personal nature between the late Jeffrey Epstein and senior officials of the EU institutions, the EU Member States, and/or third countries;

- all documents, communications and text messages (SMS, iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal or similar) exchanged between the Council, or its officials, and other EU agencies or institutions, governments and/or institutions of EU Member States and non-EU countries, citizens and natural or legal persons, regarding internal and/or external investigations launched by the Council into any relationships of a financial and/or personal nature between the late Jeffrey Epstein and senior officials of the EU institutions, the EU Member States, and/or third countries;
- It should be noted that this request concerns both documents drawn up by the Council and documents it holds of the abovementioned nature received from third parties.

### **Reasons for the request**

This request for access to documents is based on an overriding public interest, within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, as it concerns documents and communications that have a significant institutional and reputational impact on the European Union. This request concerns exchanges between the Council, or its officials, and other EU institutions, Member States, third countries and private individuals concerning the disclosure by the government of the United States of America of the ‘Epstein files’ and the possible presence within such documents of senior EU officials or officials from third countries.

Access to the documents requested is necessary to enable citizens to understand the nature and content of the Council’s communications with governments, institutions, and actors from outside the Union, any political, legal or diplomatic assessments made or shared, and the degree to which the EU’s action is consistent with the principles of transparency, institutional responsibility and protection of the integrity of its own institutions.

The matters covered by this request fall fully within the scope of the European Union’s action, both internal and external, as they relate to the management of relations with third countries, the protection of the reputation of EU institutions, and the prevention of potential risks to the EU’s credibility internationally.

Transparency as regards these documents is therefore essential to enable citizens and oversight bodies to assess the compliance of the Council’s work with the principles enshrined in EU law. In this context, access to the documents requested will serve to verify whether the Council has adopted institutional monitoring, evaluation or communication measures in relation to the disclosure of the ‘Epstein files’, and to provide an understanding of the possible implications of those events for the reputation and integrity of the EU institutions.

**Inapplicability of the exceptions provided for in Article 4(1)(a) and (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001**

**Subparagraph (a)**

The disclosure of the documents requested does not undermine the protection of public security, defence and military matters, international relations or the financial policies of the Union.

The request concerns documents and communications of an institutional and diplomatic nature or information the dissemination of which could specifically harm the interests protected by Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

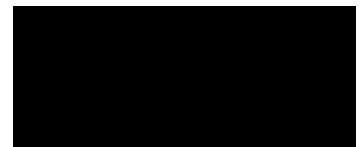
**Subparagraph b)**

The events that are the subject of this request, the disclosure of the ‘Epstein files’ and the possible presence within them of EU or third-country officials, are matters in the public domain, widely reported by international institutional and media sources.

A response is expected within the deadlines set out in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

Italy, 19 March 2026

**Requesting party**





**Council of the European Union**

General Secretariat

Directorate-General for Communication and Information (COMM)

Directorate for Information and Outreach

Information Services Unit / Transparency

*Head of Unit*

Brussels, 7 May 2026

**DELETED**

E-mail: **DELETED**

Ref. 26/1079

Request sent on: 19 March 2026

Registered on: 20 March 2026

Deadline extended on: 15 April 2026

Dear Mr **DELETED**,

Thank you for your request for access to documents of the Council of the European Union.<sup>1</sup>

Please find attached a partially accessible version of the document identified by the General Secretariat of the Council which appears to be the subject of your request.<sup>2</sup> However, I regret to inform you that full access cannot be granted for the reasons set out below.

Following consultation with the relevant departments of the General Secretariat of the Council and the European External Action Service (EEAS)<sup>3</sup>, we are sending you a partially accessible version of a joint report that is relevant to your request.

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<sup>1</sup> The General Secretariat of the Council has reviewed your request in accordance with 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).

<sup>2</sup> Article 4(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

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

The report is an internal document.

Full disclosure of the information contained in the document would undermine relations between the European Union and third countries.

Full disclosure of the document would therefore undermine the protection of the public interest as regards international relations. Consequently, the General Secretariat must refuse full access to the document in question.<sup>1</sup>

This document does not exist in the language version requested.

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 consider such a review necessary, please state the reasons for your request.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando Florindo

Annex

**From:** **DELETED**

**Sent:** Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:00 PM

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

**Subject:** Confirmatory application under Article 7(4) - Access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 - Ref. 26/1173


Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a confirmatory application under Article 7(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, digitally signed, concerning access request ref. 2026/113.

A response is expected within the deadlines set out in Article 9(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

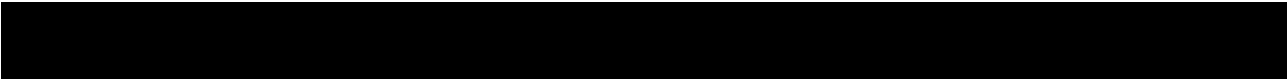
Yours sincerely,

**DELETED**



To the Council of the European Union

**Subject:** Confirmatory application under Article 7(4) - Access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 - Ref. 26/1173



**Having regard to**

- Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, and
- the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Articles 41 (good administration) and 42 (access to documents);

**With reference to**

the request for access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 sent to the Council on 19 March 2026 and registered on 20 March 2026 under reference number 26/1173;

**Whereas**

the Council replied to the request for access on 7 May 2026, granting the requesting party partial access to a document (a joint report) identified as falling within the scope of the request for access;

**The following conclusion is reached:**

- This is a confirmatory application pursuant to Article 7(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 concerning the Council's response dated 7 May 2026 regarding the request for access to documents pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 sent to the Council on 19 March 2026 and registered on 20 March 2026, under reference number 26/1173, requesting that the Council reconsider the request for access, assess the existence of additional documents, and grant full access to the document to which the Council has granted partial access, on the grounds that the public interest outweighs the exceptions set out in Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

A response is expected within the deadlines set out in Article 8(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

Italy, 7 May 2026

**Requesting party**

