



**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, 15 December 2021



Ref. 21/1980-vl/ns

Request made on: 23.11.2021

Registered on: 24.11.2021

Dear 

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 12596/2021 INIT** cannot be given for the reasons set out below.

This document, drawn up by the Slovenian Presidency of the Council for the Working Party on Terrorism, contains a summary report of the Joint TWP/COTER seminar held on 7 October 2021 focused on the Western Balkans.

Having due regard to the outcome of our consultations with the directorate responsible for this policy matter, the General Secretariat is of the opinion that the disclosure of this Note cannot be authorized, since the release of the sensitive information contained therein (concerning public security in the region concerned and in some EU member states and related assessments; individual names of officials taking active part in the abovementioned seminar) could be used by hostile entities to cause prejudice to public interest as regards public security and international relations and would also undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the identified individuals.

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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).

Consequently, public access to the requested document must be refused.<sup>2</sup>

We have also looked into the possibility of releasing parts of document **WK 12596/2021 INIT**.<sup>3</sup> However, as the information contained therein forms an inseparable whole, 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.<sup>4</sup>

Yours sincerely,

Fernando FLORINDO

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<sup>2</sup> Article 4(1)(a), first and third indent and 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

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

<sup>4</sup> Council documents on confirmatory applications are made available to the public. Pursuant to data protection rules at EU level (Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725, if you make a confirmatory application your name will only appear in related documents if you have given your explicit consent.