



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate G - External Relations
The Director

Brussels
SG.G.1/JVC/LM

Dear Sir,

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2022/2126

We refer to your request for access to documents dated and registered on 11/04/2022 under the above mentioned reference number.

You request access to:

“Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer has announced that he will visit Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. According to the dpa report, he informed Commission President Ursula von der Leyen about this. I ask for the release of all documents for the exchange between Nehammer and his staff and the President of the Commission and her staff on the subject. This includes notes of a possible phone or video call, emails and messages via SMS, WhatsApp, Signal, etc..”

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, we regret to inform you that your application cannot be granted, as disclosure is prevented by exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of this Regulation.

The documents which you seek to obtain contain sensitive information regarding the EU policy. Disclosure of the documents requested would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards international relations because it would reveal information that can be used by third countries to bring an undue pressure on the Commission and unduly limit the room for manoeuvre of the European Union on the international stage. Disclosure would therefore jeopardise the European Union's international position.

The third indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 provides that ‘[t]he institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of [...] the public interest as regards [...] international relations [...]’.

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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 within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretary-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission, Secretary-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 faithfully,

Electronically signed

Michael KARNITSCHNIG