



**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, 29 March 2023

Ms Vera Deleja-Hotko

Email: [REDACTED]

Ref. 23/0470 ex 22/0136-vl/el

Request made on: 25.01.2022

Deadline extension: 15.02.2022

Dear Ms Dejeja-Hotko,

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

Our apologies for the delay in replying to your abovementioned application, caused by the large number of RELEX-related applications handled by our Transparency service and the time needed to endeavour to identify the relevant documents corresponding to your request.

Owing to the large scope, regrettably this made it impossible for our Transparency services to carry out a reasonably affordable research in our data bases to identify all the relevant documents within the standard deadlines considering our limited human resources, while examining several additional requests for public access.

However, we managed to identify the documents held by the Council corresponding to your request.

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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).

As a reminder, your request focused on the following documents:

1. *The regular assessments of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali, Central African Republic, Somalia and Mozambique since they started*
2. *The regular assessments of EUCAP missions in Mali and Niger since they started*
3. *The annual budgets, annual inventory reports and detailed costs of EUTM in Mali, Central African Republic, Somalia and Mozambique since they started*
4. *The annual budgets and detailed costs of EUCAP missions in Mali and Niger*
5. *The number of army, security or police forces trained by the EU under the EUTM Mali, Central African Republic, Somalia and Mozambique as well as the percentage of the army and security forces this represents for each country*
6. *The training materials (presentation, briefings, etc.) by EUTM and EUBAM instructors for the mission in Mali, Central African Republic, Somalia, Libya and Mozambique*
7. *All documents (guidelines, etc.) of the oversight and monitoring mechanisms the EU has put in place to monitor the conduct of soldiers trained by the EU through EUTM and EUCAP missions*
8. *The detailed list of military equipment financed under EUTM and EUCAP programmes in the Sahel region (e.g. armoured vehicles, drones, boats, aircraft, and equipment for surveillance, communications and crowd control, etc.)*
9. *all docs (handouts, presentation, minutes, etc.) and correspondence as well as the annexes concerning meetings carried from 1.1.2020 until today by the FAC (Defence), the Defence Ministers (informal and as part of the EUMC) and the European Council as well as relevant WGs*
10. *Meeting minutes of the RELEX WP of 19 and 23 November 2021*
11. *Council decision on assistance measures under EPF to support armed forces of the Republic of Mali in conjunction of the EUTM Mali adopted on 2 December*
12. *Proposal submitted by the High Representative on 16 November 2021 for a Council Decision on an assistance measure under the EPF to support the Armed Forces of the Republic of Mali in conjunction with the EUTM in Mali (doc. 13734/1/21 REV 1)*

Concerning point 1 of your request, please note that we replied to you on 27 March 2023 (see our letter in reply to file 23/0472).

As regards points 2 of your request (six-monthly reports on EUCAP Mali and Niger), we identified the following documents corresponding to your request:

• **EUCAP SAHEL NIGER SIX-MONTHLY REPORTS:**

<b>16 Jan – 15 Jul 2014</b>	<b>13228/14</b>
<b>16 Jul 2014 – 15 Jan 2015</b>	<b>7367/15</b>
<b>16 Jan – 15 Jul 2015</b>	<b>12237/15</b>
<b>16 Jul 2015 – 15 Jan 2016</b>	<b>7218/16</b>
<b>16 Jan – 15 Jul 2016</b>	<b>13355/16</b>
<b>16 Jul 2016 – 15 Jan 2017</b>	<b>7144/17</b>
<b>16 Jan - 15 Jul 2017</b>	<b>11779/17</b>
<b>16 Jul 2017 - 15 Feb 2018</b>	<b>6619/18</b>
<b>16 Feb – 15 Aug 2018</b>	<b>11715/18</b>
<b>16 Aug 2018 - 15 Feb 2019</b>	<b>7049/19</b>

<b>16 Feb - 15 Aug 2019</b>	<b>11888/19</b>
<b>16 Aug 2019 – 15 Feb 2020</b>	<b>6208/23</b>
<b>16 Feb 2020 – 15 Aug 2020</b>	<b>10380/20</b>

- **EUCAP SAHEL MALI SIX-MONTHLY REPORTS:**

<b>16 Jan – 15 Jul 2015</b>	<b>11549/15</b>
<b>16 Jul 2015 – 15 Jan 2016</b>	<b>7216/16</b>
<b>16 Jan – 15 Jul 2016</b>	<b>13358/16</b>
<b>16 Jul 2016 – 15 Jan 2017</b>	<b>7146/17</b>
<b>16 Jan 2017 – 15 Jul 2017</b>	<b>11776/17</b>
<b>16 Jul 2017 – 15 Jan 2018</b>	<b>11854/18</b>
<b>16 Jan – 15 Aug 2018</b>	<b>11715/18</b>
<b>16 Aug 2018 – 15 Feb 2019</b>	<b>7051/19</b>
<b>16 Feb – 15 Aug 2019</b>	<b>11882/19</b>
<b>16 Aug 2019 – 15 Feb 2020</b>	<b>6292/20</b>
<b>16 Feb – 15 Aug 2020</b>	<b>10383/20</b>

All the above-mentioned documents bear the classification marking “**EU RESTRICTED - RESTREINT UE**”, which means that the unauthorised disclosure of their contents could be disadvantageous to the interests of the European Union or of one or more of its Member States.<sup>2</sup>

These reports elaborate on the political and security situation in the third country and region concerned and share evaluations, assessments and judgements related to extremely challenging geo-political scenarios. They concern all the challenging aspects of ongoing missions in geopolitical scenarios with acute security problems, where EU civilian and military facilities and personnel are operating under serious threats.

The sensitive information on analysis, planning and ways forward as well as on operational and logistic procedures therein described or assessed, if disclosed, would seriously jeopardize the lives of the EU personnel engaged in these missions and would compromise their fulfilment as a whole, seriously jeopardizing also the EU's position as a valid interlocutor in the international scene (towards the national authorities of the third countries concerned, as well as towards diverse internal factions involved in the third country concerned, and towards the EU's international partners in the different operations concerned).

<sup>2</sup> Council Decision of 23 September 2013 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (2013/488/EU), OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1.

Moreover, the release of this information to the public would be of the utmost intelligence value to EU opponents and adversaries, both States or non-State actors, allowing them to build or fine-tune their campaign against EU interests, therefore compromising the strategic interests of the Union, as well as of its partner and allied nations in the Region.

In the light of the above, the public disclosure of these documents would put in danger the lives of the EU civilian and military personnel engaged in the missions concerned, undermine the protection of the public interest as regards defence and military matters, and also cause prejudice to the EU's international relations. Consequently, public access must be refused<sup>3</sup>.

We have also looked into the possibility of releasing parts of these reports<sup>4</sup>. However, as the information therein contained forms an inseparable whole, the General Secretariat is unable to give partial access.

For your future needs, you may also wish to consult :

- Our public register of Council documents (<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/public-register/public-register-search/>), which contains references to, among others, additional documents concerning the abovementioned EU missions (identifiable by carrying out your search by using ad hoc key-parameters corresponding to the topic(s) of your interest), some of which may be downloadable full text;
- the following web platforms corresponding to the abovementioned EU missions:  
[https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eucap-sahel-mali\\_en?s=331](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eucap-sahel-mali_en?s=331)<sup>5</sup>  
<https://www.eucap-sahel.eu/><sup>6</sup>

Concerning points 3 to 8 of your request, the Council does not hold any document/information on the matters concerned. Unless you already did it, you may wish to contact the transparency services of the European Peace Facility and/or the transparency department of the European External Action Service (EEAS):

- [EPF.operations@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:EPF.operations@consilium.europa.eu).
- <https://www.europa.eu/public-register/request>  
<https://www.europa.eu/public-register/more-information#:~:text=%22Any%20citizen%20of%20the%20Union,Union%2C%20whatever%20their%20medium.%22>

As regards point 9 of your request, which is formulated in very general terms, regretfully we cannot process it due to the extremely large scope. You may wish to consult first our web site <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/> (the pages dedicated to each and every meeting concerned) as well as the public register of Council documents <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/public-register/public-register-search/>,

<sup>3</sup> Article 4(1)(a), first, second and third indent of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02014D0219-20230110>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022D1505>.

where you will be able to identify a wide variety of documents, most of which (over 75% on average of the documents referred thereto) can be downloaded full text. Should you identify a document that is not yet in the public domain, please don't hesitate to introduce a new ad hoc request for public access through our on line registration form.

Concerning point 10 of your request, our services responsible for the agenda of the Foreign Relations Working Party informed us that there were no outcomes of proceedings drawn up after the WP meetings on 19 and 23 November 2021

As regards point 11 of your request, the Council decision on assistance measures under EPF to support armed forces of the Republic of Mali in conjunction of the EUTM Mali adopted on 2 December 2021 is in the attached document **ST 13735/21** (already in the public domain and accessible also through our public register).

Finally, as regards point 12 of your request, the proposal submitted by the High Representative on 16 November 2021 for a Council Decision on an assistance measure under the EPF to support the Armed Forces of the Republic of Mali in conjunction with the EUTM in Mali is in the attached document **ST 13734/1/21 REV 1**. As you will notice, you may have access to almost its full content, except for a slight sentence (first sentence of the first big paragraph in page 4 of the proposal) that contains sensitive information of internal nature that, if released to the public, would undermine public interest as regards international relations.<sup>7</sup>

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>8</sup>

Yours Sincerely,

Fernando FLORINDO

Enclosures: 2

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<sup>7</sup> Article 4(1)(a), third indent, of Regulation (EC) no 1049/2001.

<sup>8</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.