



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 19 February 2013**

**6476/13**

**PE-L 18  
INST 81  
COASI 20**

**“I” ITEM NOTE**

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from : Working Party on General Affairs  
to : Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

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No. prev. doc. : doc. 6101/13 PE-L 11 INST 58 COASI 12  
doc. 6328/13 PE-L 12 INST 70 COASI 15

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Subject: Draft reply to the letter of Mr Brok, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament concerning a request for access to the negotiating directives and/or to the texts of the agreements initialled but not yet signed as regards the international agreements between the European Union and Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand and Singapore<sup>\*</sup>

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1. In a letter dated 29 January 2013, the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament asked the Council to grant Parliament access to the negotiating directives and/or to the texts of the agreements initialled but not yet signed as regards the international agreements between the European Union and Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand and Singapore.
2. The Working Party on General Affairs considered the matter at its meeting on 15 February and prepared a draft reply.
3. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attached letter, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure (Article 19(7)(k)).

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<sup>\*</sup> Item on which a procedural decision may be adopted by the Coreper pursuant to Article 19 (7)(k) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

**Council of the European Union**

Brussels, 2013

DRAFT REPLY

Mr Elmar Brok  
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
BP 1047  
Brussels

Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 29 January 2013 to the President of the Council concerning a request for access to the negotiating directives and/or to the texts of the agreements initialled but not yet signed as regards the international agreements between the European Union and Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand and Singapore.

Since 2012 preparations have been underway on new arrangements to be put in place concerning the forwarding to and handling by the European Parliament of classified information held by the Council on matters other than those in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. However, until these arrangements enter into force the current practice as set out in the letter from the chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee of 3 December 2010 to Mr Albertini, as described below, continues to apply.

The Council is pleased to inform you that it is ready to grant access to yourself as Committee Chair, the Rapporteurs concerned (please see the list attached) and the coordinators of the political groups to the negotiating directives as regards the international agreements between the European Union and Afghanistan, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand and Singapore. The only agreement that has already been initialled is that with Mongolia, which can be consulted in the public register.

Access will be arranged within a secure room on the Council premises. In accordance with the Council's security regulations for protecting EU classified information, it is understood that the document itself will remain in the possession of the Council, and that no subsequent direct reference to the detailed contents should be made in any public meetings.

For the purposes of consulting the document, the European Parliament is invited to inform the office of Mr Schiavo, Director General in the General Secretariat of the Council, of the names of the Members concerned, as well as of the dates and times they wish to come to the Council.

Yours faithfully

Chairman of the  
Permanent representatives Committee

Annex : Table of Rapporteurs to whom access to the negotiating directives is granted

<b>PCA/FA</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>
EU-Australia Framework Agreement	Ioannis Kasoulides
EU-Japan Framework Agreement	Alojz Peterle
EU-New Zealand Framework Agreement	Ioannis Kasoulides
EU-Malaysia Framework Agreement	Emilio Menéndez del Valle
EU-Singapore Framework Agreement	Reinhard Bütikofer
EU-Mongolia Framework Agreement	Nicole Kiil-Nielsen
EU-Afghanistan Framework Agreement	Pino Arlacchi