

Brussels, 25 February 2026
(OR. en)

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Public access to documents - Confirmatory application N° 09/c/01/26
- Information to delegations

Delegations will find attached:

- the request for access to documents sent to the General Secretariat of the Council on 16 December 2025 and registered on the same day (Annex 1);
- the reply from the General Secretariat of the Council dated 6 February 2026 and the addendum to the reply dated 12 February 2026 (Annex 2);
- the confirmatory application dated 24 February 2026 and registered on the same day (Annex 3).

From: document-request@cis.consilium.europa.eu <document-request@cis.consilium.europa.eu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 11:34 AM
To: TRANSPARENCY Access to documents (COMM) <Access@consilium.europa.eu>
Subject: Consilium - Electronic Request for Access to documents [ENGLISH]

This e-mail has been sent to access@consilium.europa.eu using the electronic form available in the Register application.

This electronic form has been submitted in ENGLISH.

Title

DELETED

First name

DELETED

Family name

DELETED

E-mail

DELETED

Occupation

Academia

I submit this request on my own behalf.

Name of the organisation

Full postal address

Telephone

+31629346584

Requested document(s)

(1) ST 15376 2025 ADD 1 - 'I/A' ITEM NOTE, (2) ST 15376 2025 INIT - 'I/A' ITEM NOTE, (3) WK 14606 2025 REV 5 - MEETING DOCUMENT, (4) WK 14606 2025 REV 5 COR 1 - MEETING DOCUMENT, (5) WK 15741 2025 INIT - MEETING DOCUMENT, (6) WK 14606 2025 REV 4 COR 1 - MEETING DOCUMENT, (7) WK 14606 2025 REV 3 - MEETING DOCUMENT, (8) WK 14606 2025 REV 4 - MEETING DOCUMENT, (9) WK 14606 2025 REV 2 - MEETING DOCUMENT, (10) WK 14606 2025 REV 1 - MEETING DOCUMENT, (11) WK 14606 2025 INIT - MEETING DOCUMENT

1st option

EN

2nd option

NL



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, 6 February 2026

DELETED

Email: **DELETED**

Ref. 25/3917

Request made on: 16.12.2025

Deadline extension: 16.01.2026

Dear **DELETED**

Thank you for your request for access to documents of the Council of the European Union.¹

Please find attached documents **15376/25** and **WK 15741/2025 INIT** that you requested.

I regret to inform you that access to documents **WK 14606/2025 INIT + REV 1+ REV2+ REV3+ REV4+ REV4COR1+ REV5+ REV5COR1** cannot be given for the reasons set out below.

Document **WK 14606/2025 INIT** and the subsequent REV's are intermediary versions of document **15699/25** which is public and available in the [Public register of the Council](#).

For the Council to approve the Conclusions on the Pact for the Mediterranean, the Member States held initial consultations and exploratory talks. Document **WK 14606/2025** and the subsequent REV's contain opinions that were put forward for internal use only, as part of initial deliberations within the Council. Release of this information would harm future decision-making on this and similar issues.

¹ 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).

Disclosure of the documents would therefore seriously undermine the decision-making process of the Council, even after the Council Conclusions have been approved.

Having examined the context in which the document was drafted, on balance the General Secretariat could not identify any evidence suggesting an overriding public interest in its disclosure.

As a consequence, the General Secretariat has to refuse access to this document².

Moreover, release of the information contained in these documents would prejudice relations between the European Union and the Southern Mediterranean countries.

Disclosure of the documents would therefore undermine the protection of the public interest as regards international relations³. As a consequence, the General Secretariat has to refuse access to the documents.

We have also looked into the possibility of releasing parts of the documents.⁴ However, as the exceptions to the right of access apply to its entire content, the General Secretariat is unable to give partial access.

Please also note that document **15376/25 ADD1** will be discussed in Coreper on 10 February. We will get back regarding its disclosure on 11 February at the latest.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando FLORINDO

Enclosures: 2

² Article 4(3), second subparagraph, of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

³ Article 4(1) (a) third indent of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

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



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, 12 February 2026

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E-mail: **DELETED**

Ref. 25/3917-ADD

Request made on: 16.12.2025

Deadline extension: 16.01.2026

Dear **DELETED**,

Thank you for your request for access to documents of the Council of the European Union.⁵

Please find attached document **15376/25 ADD1**, as requested.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando FLORINDO

Enclosures: 1

⁵ 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).

From: **DELETED**

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 3:34 PM

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

Subject: Re: Ref. 25/3917 - Ares(2026)1357313

Dear Mr. Fernando Florindo Gijon,

Thank you for your efforts and openness in sharing some of the documents I requested. With this email, I request a review of your decision and the reasons thereof.

I wholly understand the serious consequences of sharing the internal documents, particularly the WK14606 working documents. I have taken from one of our teachers, whom in the past fulfilled a senior position at your institution, that these documents are generally not shared publicly. Despite these barriers, I appreciate you looking into the possibility of releasing parts of the documents. If possible on your side, I am fine with a redacted release of the requested documents.

I am requesting the documents for the purpose of writing my master's thesis at Centre International Formation de Europe (CIFE). My underlying driver is to support the common European interests you seek to protect, and the broader planetary context within which we exist. Below I outline why and how my thesis contributes to this.

As you know, there is a large body of academic work and diplomatic concern with regards to the challenges of the EU foreign policymaking process. Often criticised as slow, contradictory and dysfunctional, the Council and Commission have to cope with these obstacles to remain effective in an increasingly anarchic southern neighbourhood. My research has the explicit goal of untangling the underlying problems from which policymaking challenges in the Council emerge, particularly the *lowest common denominator* and *collective action problem*.

In my thesis, I take a complex systems approach to explore the dialectics of the Council negotiations of the Union's Pact of the Mediterranean. To conduct my analysis I need to access information that enables me to identify three components: (1) the mental models of member state representatives, (2) power relations between member states, and (3) the evolution of the stages during the negotiation. If I am to untangle each of these elements of the decision making system, I need to be able to read **positions of member states**, contradictions between positions, and **the**

manner in which the final Council conclusions evolve throughout negotiation stages. The novelty of my research is in applying a new methodology based on contemporary philosophy of ontology and epistemology named *New Realism*. Through the lens of this theory, called *Fields of Sense*, I can reconstruct the logic of the negotiations, the psycho-political prism of each interlocutor, the material reality to which interlocutors relate and what alternative paths the underlying pattern of interests could have followed to achieve better and agreeable collective outcomes.

The red line in this research is to maximise policy outcomes within the current structure of decision-making. I am convinced that this research can contribute to external European policymaking, particularly by concluding with a reimagining of future pathways to sustainable, inclusive and above all resilient relations with the southern neighbours in the fields of trade, ecology, energy, innovation and security.

Without access to documents in sufficient detail to trace these elements, the methodological integrity of the research would be compromised. The research is conducted strictly for academic purposes. Any material obtained will be handled with full respect for applicable confidentiality and data protection standards. If required, I am prepared to anonymise references or accept partial access where justified.

I hope I have been able to offer you clarity as to the purpose of my access request. If there are any other actions I can undertake to raise your confidence in protecting the confidentiality of these documents, please feel free to contact me!

Kind regards,

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