



Brussels, 26 February 2026
(OR. en)

6734/26

API 34
INF 46
OMBUDS 8
JUR 166
INST 65

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Closure of the Inquiry regarding complaint 2976/2025/AGU – Decision of the European Ombudsman

1. On 5 November 2025, the Council was informed of the European Ombudsman's decision to open an inquiry into a complaint (reference 2976/2025/AGU)¹ concerning the Council decision approving the reply to confirmatory application 20/c/01/25 (refusing to grant public access to documents ST 11762/25, ST 11431/25 and its annexed factsheet pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001²). In the context of this European Ombudsman's inquiry, the GSC conducted a renewed assessment and proceeded with new consultations in relation with the three documents to which access was refused at the confirmatory stage.
2. Further to that renewed assessment, the Council, at its meeting on 20 January 2026, decided to grant full access to documents ST 11762/25, ST 11431/25 and its annexed factsheet³.
3. Following the decision of the Council and in accordance with it, on 22 January 2026 the General Secretariat of the Council sent a letter to the complainant. In this letter, the complainant was informed of the Council decision concerning the new assessment that had

¹ Doc. 15166/25 INIT.

² Doc. 12425/25.

³ Doc 16688/25

been conducted on the requested documents. The requested documents were sent to the complainant. The European Ombudsman was informed of that demarche.

4. On 20 February 2026, the Director of Inquiries of the European Ombudsman sent a letter to the Director-General of the Legal Service of the Council of the European Union regarding the inquiry concerning complaint 2976/2025/AGU. This letter is annexed to this note; personal data have been redacted.
5. In this letter, the European Ombudsman welcomes the renewed assessment of the requested documents by the Council and its decision to give full public access to them. The Ombudsman also informs the Council therein that the case is now closed with the conclusion that it has been settled

E-MAIL



IN 2076/2026
23-02-2026

Reçu le
20. 02. 2026

Ms Emer Finnegan
Director-General of the Legal Service
Council of the European Union

Complaint 2976/2025/AGU

Decision on how the Council of the EU dealt with a request for public access to documents concerning the language regime in the EU (your reference 20/c/02/25)

Dear Ms Finnegan,

Thank you for informing the Ombudsman that, in the context of the above inquiry, the Council has carried out a new assessment of the three documents at issue in the complainant's confirmatory application. The Ombudsman notes that, as a result of this new assessment, the Council has decided to grant full public access to the three documents and informed the complainant accordingly.

The Ombudsman welcomes the Council's renewed assessment and its decision to give full public access. This case is now closed with the conclusion that it has been **settled**.

Yours sincerely,



Director of Inquiries

Brussels
Rue Fossart 67
B-1000 Brussels

Strasbourg
Hôtel Dieffert - Allee Spach
F-67000 Strasbourg

Postal address
1 Av. du Président F. Schuman
CS 30403
F-57001 Strasbourg Cedex

+33 (0)3 88 17 20 19
ombudsman.europa.eu