

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001951/25
to the Commission**

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(14 May 2025)

Subject: Access to text messages between President von der Leyen and the CEO of Pfizer

During the pandemic, the Commission signed a mammoth purchase agreement with Pfizer for 1.8 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Reports have emerged that some of the negotiations took place via messages exchanged directly between Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the pharmaceutical company CEO.

A formal request to access these messages, filed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, was denied by the Commission. Following this refusal, the New York Times brought an action before the General Court of the European Union, which, in a judgment of 14 May 2025, annulled the Commission's decision.

In line with the principles of justice, clarity and transparency, people have a right to know how public money is used.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to follow up on the judgment and enable access to the requested messages?
2. Will the Commission publish the full transcript of the messages exchanged between President von der Leyen and the CEO of Pfizer in the period in question?
3. What measures has it taken or does it intend to take to ensure that relevant institutional communications can be traced?

Submitted: 14.5.2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(10 September 2025)

1. In its judgment of 14 May 2025 in case T-36/23 ⁽¹⁾ concerning an access to documents request, the General Court found that the Commission should have provided a more detailed explanation in its decision that it does not hold documents of the requested type. In order to implement the judgment, on 28 July 2025, the Commission has adopted a new decision C(2025)5429 ⁽²⁾, providing a more detailed explanation.
2. The case in hand concerns an access to documents request submitted under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 ⁽³⁾. Following the judgment of 14 May 2025, the Commission carried out a new and exhaustive search for the documents corresponding to the description given in the request. As a result of the renewed search, no documents could be identified.
3. The Commission has a robust record-keeping policy as laid down in Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121 on records management ⁽⁴⁾, and in its internal guidelines, which provide for cumulative criteria for registration of documents. These rules aim to ensure the integrity of the Commission's records and full transparency by making sure that important documents drafted or received by the Commission are easily retrievable and can be made accessible to interested EU citizens. In its judgment, the General Court did not put into question the Commission's registration policy regarding access to documents.

⁽¹⁾ Judgment of 14 May 2025, *Stevi and The New York Times v Commission*, T-36/23, EU:T:2025:483.

⁽²⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request/search/document-details/16708>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2001/1049/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/2121/oj/eng>.