

EN

E-002812/2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.9.2025)

1 and 3. In its judgment of 14 May 2025 in case T-36/23¹ 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.

The Commission has decided not to appeal the judgment in case T-36/23 of 14 May 2025. In order to implement the judgment, on 28 July 2025, the Commission has adopted a new decision C(2025)5429, providing a more detailed explanation as to why it does not hold documents of the requested type, which has already been sent to the applicant and published on the Commission's portal².

2. Transparency has always been of paramount importance for the Commission and its President. The Commission remains committed to timely process an increasing number of access to documents request under Regulation 1049/2001³. Since the introduction of the Electronic Access to Commission Documents (EASE) platform, the Commission has been publishing all documents released under the Regulation on the public portal⁴. It constantly strives to implement proactive publication whenever this is possible and to improve the functioning of the portal. On 4 December 2024, the Commission adopted its new Rules of Procedure and the Annex on access to documents⁵, to improve the clarity, predictability and consistency of the Commission's access to documents policy.

Finally, the Commission has a robust record-keeping policy as laid down in Commission Decision C(2020)4482 on records management, and in its internal guidelines, which 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.

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

² <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request/search/document-details/16708>;
<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request/search/document-details/16710>.

³ In 2024, there were 6 938 initial applications and 641 confirmatory applications:
https://commission.europa.eu/publications/annual-reports-commission-application-regulation-10492001_en.

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request/search>.

⁵ Commission Decision (EU) 2024/3080 of 4 December 2024 establishing the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and amending Decision C(2000) 3614 (OJ L, 2024/3080, 5.12.2024, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/3080/oj>).