

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001943/25
to the Commission
Friedrich Pürner (NI)
(14 May 2025)**

Subject: General Court judgment in Case T-36/23 (Stevi and The New York Times v Commission)

In its judgment ⁽¹⁾ on 14 May 2025, the Court of Justice of the European Union upheld the action brought by The New York Times and annulled the Commission's decision to deny access to the text messages exchanged between Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla.

1. Is the Commission intending to bring an appeal, limited to points of law, by the time limit laid down?
2. What are the conclusions drawn and the lessons learned by the Commission, and in particular by its President, from this judgment, and what costs have been incurred to date as a result of the litigation?
3. When, how and to whom will the Commission give access to the text messages that were exchanged?

Submitted: 14.5.2025

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(24 June 2025)**

The Commission is still analysing the judgment of the General Court and will comply with its duty to take the necessary measures to comply with the judgment in due course.

In particular, since the General Court has found that the Commission should have provided a more precise explanation of its statement according to which it does not hold the requested documents, the Commission will review the situation in light of this finding and will adopt a new decision.

The General Court has ordered the Commission to pay the costs of the case. Since they have not yet been liquidated, it is not possible to quantify them at this stage.

The General Court does not put into question the Commission's documents registration policy. These rules aim to ensure the integrity and validity of the Commission's records and that important documents drafted or received by the Commission can be retrieved and eventually made accessible to interested EU citizens.

The Commission will continue to strictly abide by the solid legal framework in place for access to documents. The Commission remains fully committed to maintaining openness, accountability and clear communication with all stakeholders, including EU institutions, civil society, and interest representatives.

¹ <https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2025-05/cp250060en.pdf>