

Our Ref: FN/5999/60052.1

Your Ref: 25/0418

[access@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:access@consilium.europa.eu)

Council of the European Union

General Secretariat

Directorate-General Communication and Information - COMM

Fernando Florindo - Head of Unit

Directorate Information and Outreach Information Services Unit/ nbridge | Oxford | Hong Kong | Singapore  
Transparency

**Mishcon de Reya**

Africa House

70 Kingsway

London WC2B 6AH

DX 37954 Kingsway

T: +44 20 3321 7000

[www.mishcon.com](http://www.mishcon.com)

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Dear Mr Florindo

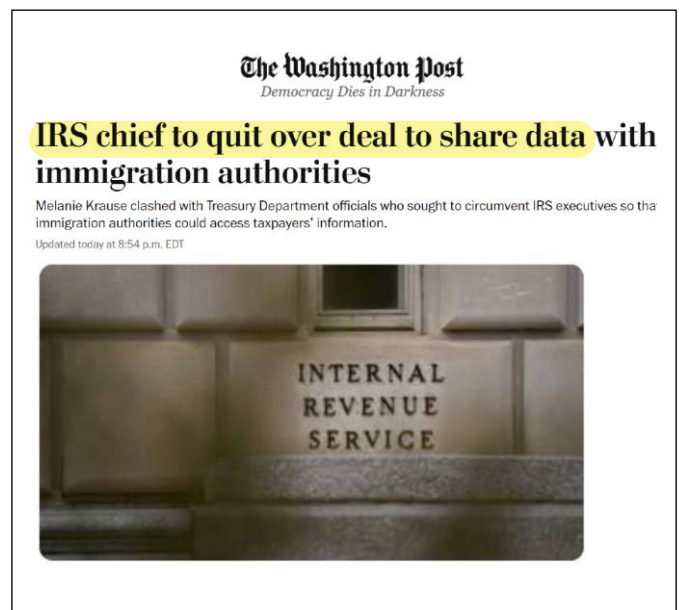
## **AEOI & GDPR | Access to Documents Request**

**Your Ref: 25-0418**

I write further to our Confirmatory Application dated 30 March 2025 in response to your decision dated 24 March 2025 relating to our [Access to Documents Request](#) dated 10 February 2025 (as supplemented on [24 February 2025](#) and [26 February 2025](#) and on) together with its [timeline](#) and [chronology](#).

Yesterday, the [Washington Post](#) reported that the IRS Commissioner Melanie Krause resigned over a deal to give access to taxpayers' information to other US agencies. [IRS lawyers had advised that the deal violated privacy laws](#). The same article confirmed that dozens of IT and cybersecurity officials have been placed on leave, increasing [existing concerns](#) about the security of IRS data.

Ms Krause's predecessor, acting IRS Commissioner Doug O'Donnell, [resigned](#) shortly after refusing to sign a similar data-sharing agreement. The last Senate-confirmed IRS commissioner, Danny Werfel, resigned on President Donald Trump's first day in office.



The news from the US confirm the need to carefully assess the level of data protection safeguards in third countries (a requirement under Art. 46 GDPR), especially in the light of recent CJEU case law (*Schrems*, *Bindl*, etc.), also in light of [independent reports](#) charting authoritarian abuses of the FATF standards.

EU Petitioners believe that the withheld documents contain candid admissions by EU institutions and Member States that AEOI violates basic EU data protection principles, echoing [historic worries](#) raised by the European Commission class of 2010-2013. EU citizens and data protection campaigners have an [overriding public interest](#) in accessing official documents that underpin their concerns, especially after their efforts at EU level have been praised in an [EU Parliament study](#).

**Filippo Nosedà**

Partner

Direct Tel: +44 20 3321 7980

Email: [filippo.nosedà@mishcon.com](mailto:filippo.nosedà@mishcon.com)