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Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Directorate-General Communication and Information - COMM

Fernando Florindo - Head of Unit

 $\textbf{Directorate Information Services Unit/} \ \ {\rm nbridge} \ | \ {\rm Oxford} \ | \ {\rm Hong \ Kong} \ | \ {\rm Singapore} \ | \ {\rm Cong} \ | \ {\rm Singapore} \ | \ {\rm Cong} \$

Transparency

15 April 2025

AEOI & GDPR | Access to Documents Request Your Ref: 25-0418

Dear Mr Florindo

1. Additional documents identified

The EU petitioners have brought to my attention the agenda of today's meeting organised by DAPIX - the EU Working Party on Information Exchange and Data Protection - DAPIX held a meeting today (see also attached PDF)

Information by the Commission on transfers of personal data to third countries and international data flows

Council documents are available on Delegates Portal.

2. **Procedural issues**

The additional documents fall squarely within the search/subject-matter of our existing access request. In the circumstances, it would be expedient to deal with these new documents as part of the same request and under the same reference (25/0418).

However, if this is not possible, I would ask you please to open a new reference, and treat this communication as a separate access to document request under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

3. Overriding interest to disclosure

In the first instance, I would refer you to the arguments raised in our Access Request dated 10 February 2025, as supplemented on:

- 18 February 2025 (unauthorised DOGE access of taxpayers' data);
- 26 February 2025 (EU Parliament's acknowledgment of the work carried out by EU Petitioners in the area of automatic exchange of information and data protection);
- 5 March 2025 (press criticism of EU's handling of data transfers with the US);
- 4 12 March 2025 (US derogatory comments about EU approach to the US);

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- 19 March 2025 (US administration's attack on the judiciary);
- 4 April 2025 (email commenting on the Commission's President comments on the EU being 'taken on' by its 'oldest ally);
- 10 April 2025 (IRS Acting Commissioner's resignation over data protection concerns).

I would also refer you to the content of our Confirmatory Application dated 30 March 2025 in relation to the existing AtD request.

All those remarks apply and extend to the documents referenced in this email.

3. EU's own fears of espionage by third countries

I would also mention the allegations appeared in the press today of the EU issuing burner phones to officials traveling to a number of third countries (all of which are covered by AEOI-exchanges from the EU) for fear of espionage.

In circumstances where EU institutions show concern for their own data, ordinary compliant citizens have an overriding interest in ensuring that their own personal data is protected in accordance with the provisions of Art. 7, 8 and 52 of the EU Charter and the GDPR (data minimisation, legality of processing, purpose limitation, etc.).

Please let me know if you have any queries in relation to this communication or the attached documents. Otherwise, I await disclosure of the documents mentioned in the DAPIX agenda for today.

Best regards,

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Partner

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