

2020 Report on public access to documents requests at Eurojust

I. Background

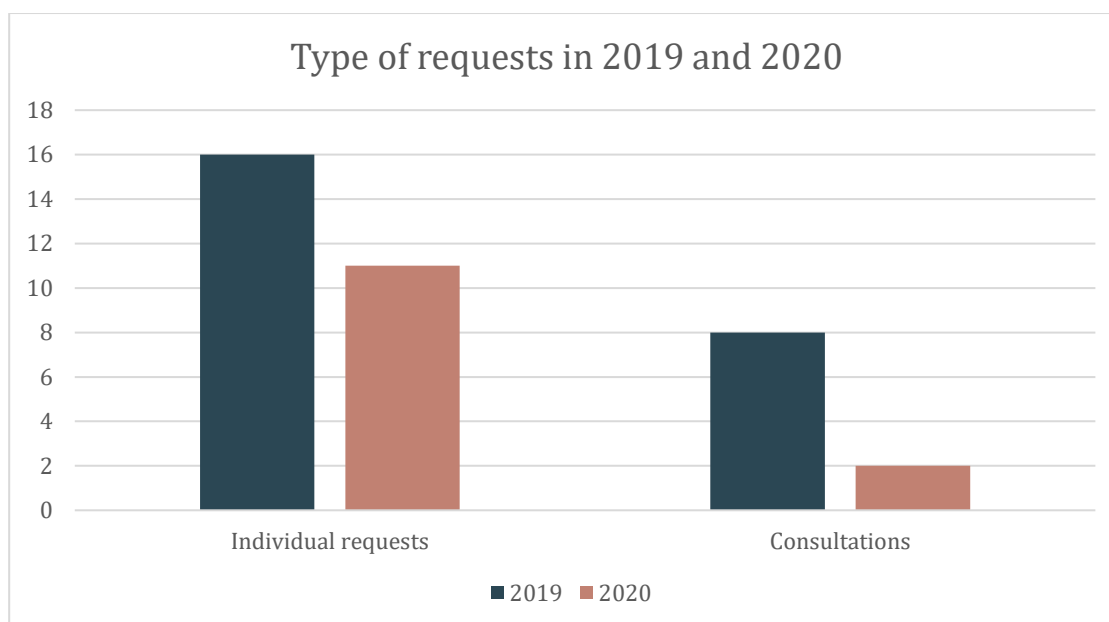
As of the entry into force of the new Eurojust Regulation ([Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1727 on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation \(Eurojust\) and replacing and repealing Council Decision 2002/187/JHA](#)) on 12 December 2019, [Regulation \(EC\) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents](#) became applicable to Eurojust. As a result, Eurojust reviewed its internal policy in access to documents and adopted [College Decision 2020-02](#) to comply with its statutory obligations.

Eurojust publishes annually a report about the preceding year on the requests made for public access to documents, including the number of cases in which the institution refused to grant access to documents.

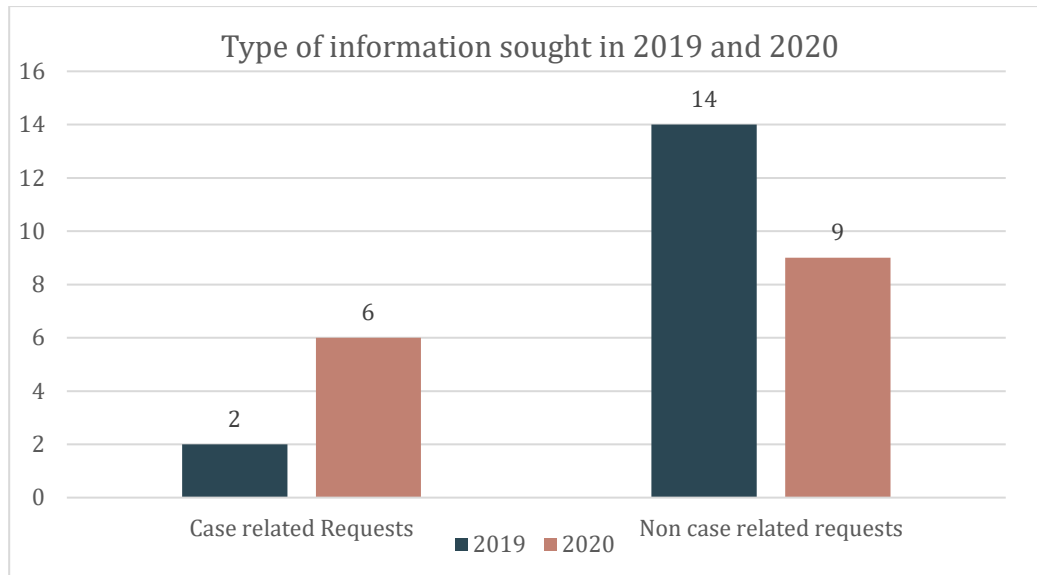
II. Report

The number of individual requests decreased by over 30 %, adding up to the total number of 11 requests.

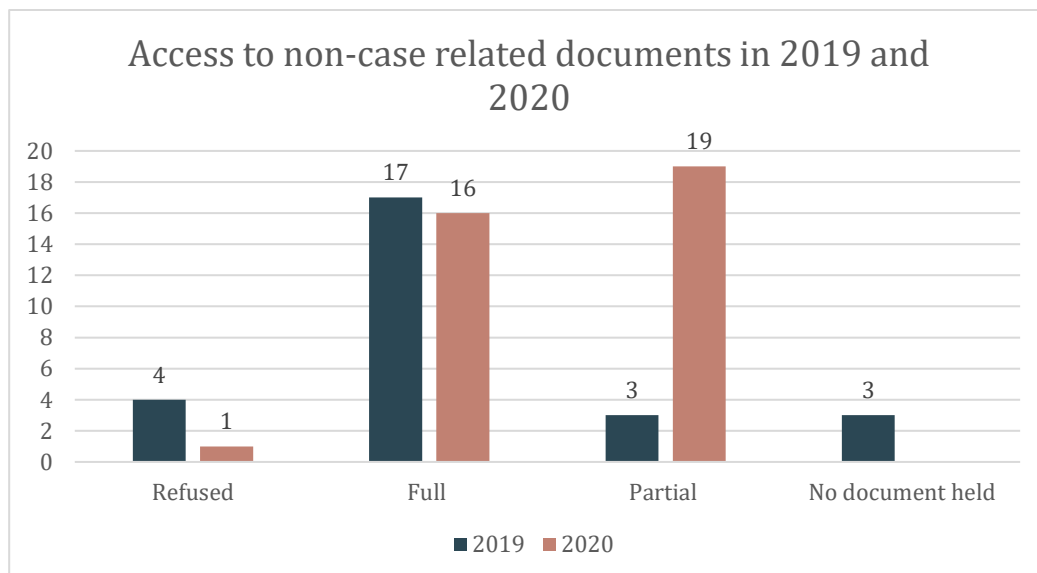
Consultations from other EU agencies or European Institutions requests also experienced a drop in 2020 from 8 consultation requests to 2. In this latter context, Eurojust is a third-party author of requested documents in accordance with Article 4(4) of Regulation 1049/2001.



There are 3 times more case-related requests received in 2020 than a year earlier. This shows that the public is interested in the work of Eurojust and uses [the tools provided on the Eurojust website](#) to require further information.



In the context of **non-case related documents**, Eurojust granted access to 35 documents, fully or partially, in 2020, which is almost twice as much as in 2019. Eurojust refused access to only one request, based on attorney-client privilege.

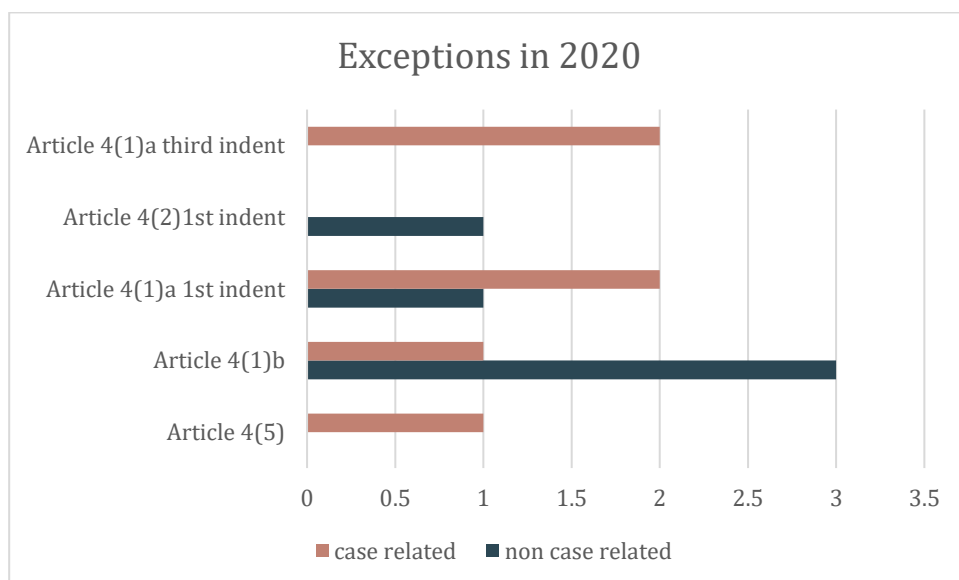


Concerning **case-related documents**, Eurojust granted access to one document, with redactions. In the remaining 5 requests, Eurojust either refused to disclose (2) or indicated that no document was held at Eurojust (2). In one instance, information was provided in a format of a list. Details on the exceptions grounds are indicated below.

III. Exceptions

Eurojust fulfils its statutory obligations under Regulation 1049/2001 by considering various interests and rights that need to be safeguarded.

In most of the cases, the protection of privacy and integrity of an individual are taken into account (Article 4(1) under b) when it comes to disclosure of any document, case related or otherwise. Due to the sensitivity of Eurojust's work, ensuring the proper fulfilment of Eurojust's mandate (Article 4(1)(a) first indent) and protecting international relations (Article 4(1)(a) third indent) are the next main reasons to either refuse disclosure or to redact documents before disclosure. Protection of commercial interest (Article 4(2) first indent) was applied in one non-case related request, whereas the Member State's request not to disclose certain parts of a document (Article 4(5)) resulted in a partial disclosure in one case.



IV. Public Register

Eurojust continued to increase the number of documents stored and publicly available in its [Public Register](#). Such database makes it easier for citizens to search and find documents held by Eurojust without the need to make a formal request. This also contribute to more transparency and greater availability of information about Eurojust's activities.