

2023 Report on public access to documents requests at Eurojust

I. INTRODUCTION

The present report provides an overview of the public access to documents requests received by Eurojust in 2023. According to Article 74(1) of the [Eurojust Regulation, Regulation 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on access to documents](#) applies to documents held by Eurojust.

II. OVERVIEW OF REQUESTS

In 2023, Eurojust received 35 requests for public access to documents and 6 third-party consultations, as shown in *Figure 1*. This represents a significant increase compared to the previous year, in which 13 individual requests for public access to documents and 7 third-party consultations were received.

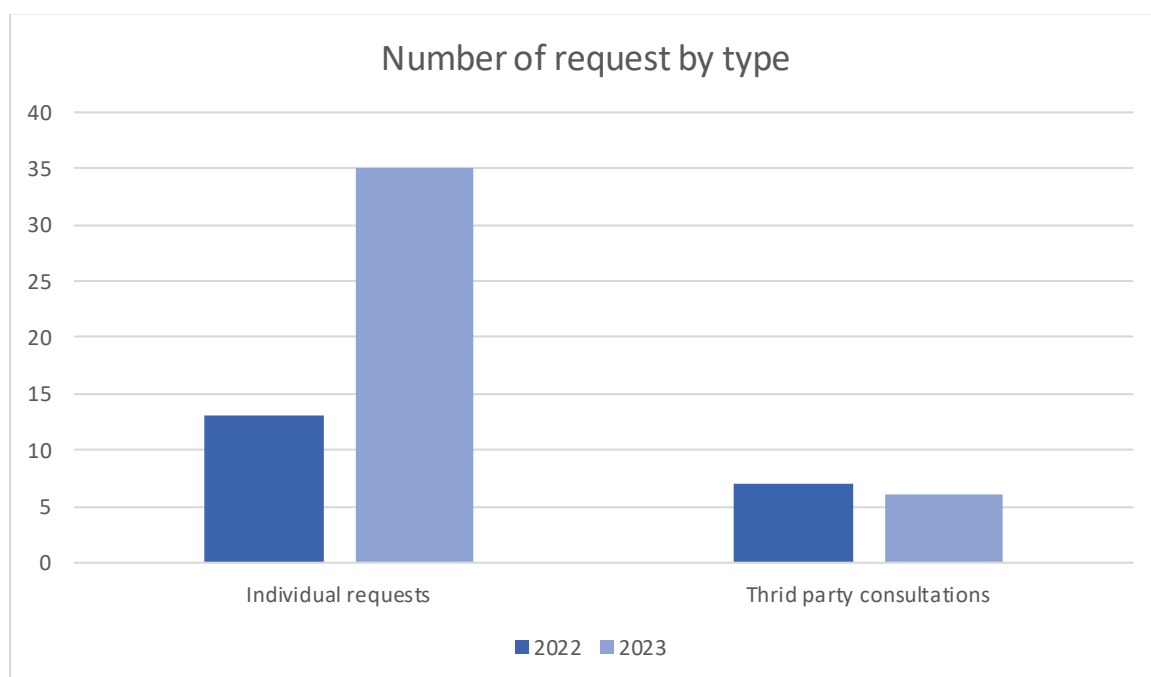


Figure 1

In 2023, the requests related to 72 operational documents and to 25 administrative ones. (*Figure 2*).

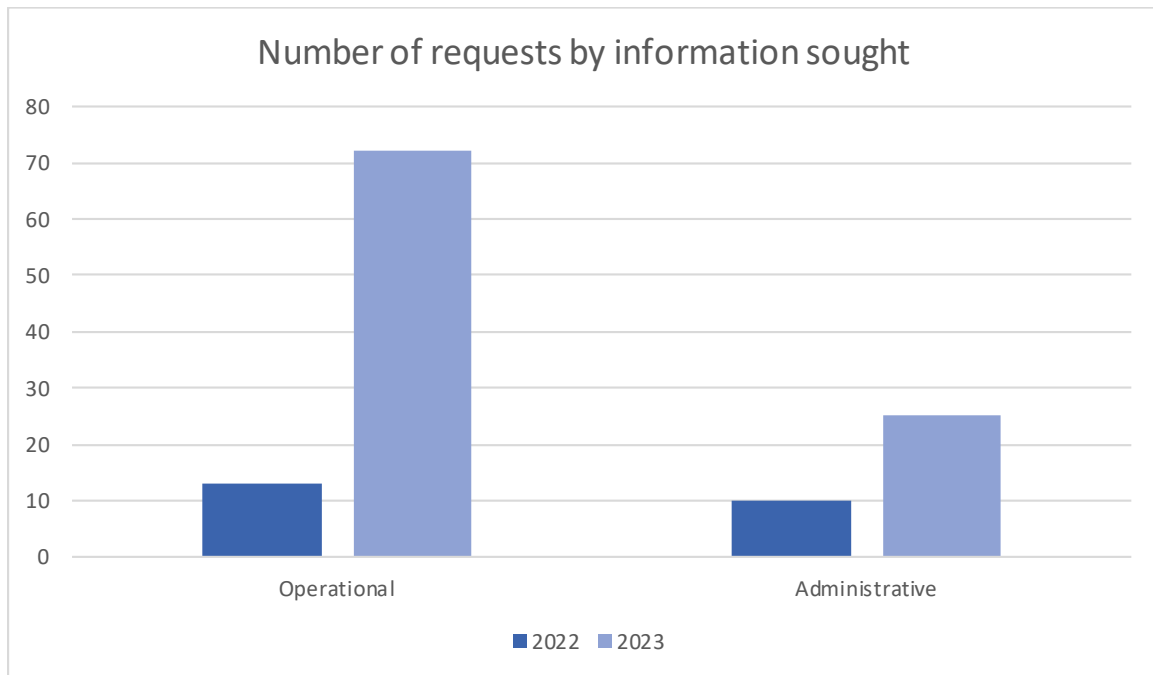


Figure 2

The responses to requests for 2023 are summarized in *Figure 3*. Eurojust provided full access in 13 occasions, partial access in eight occasions and rejected access in 11 occasions. In six occasions, the requested documents were already in the public domain. Additionally, seven requests were closed as Eurojust did not hold the requested documents, and two were withdrawn by the applicants.

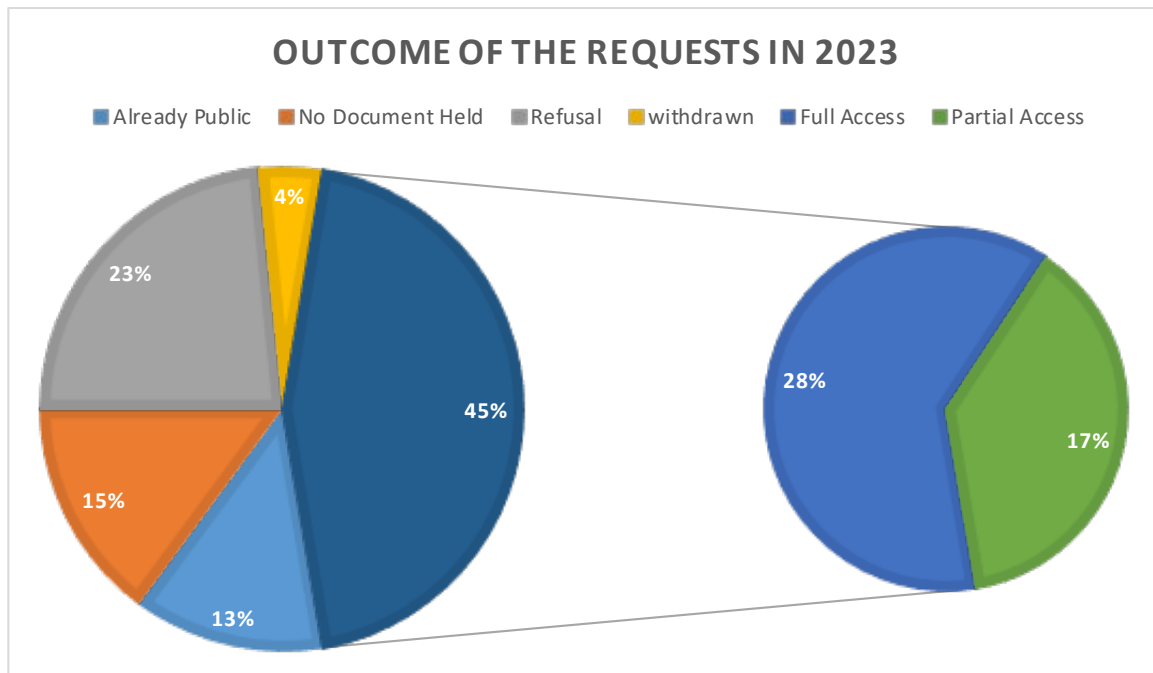


Figure 3

Eurojust granted access to fifty-four documents, i.e. full access to thirty documents and partial access for twenty-four documents. Eurojust refused access to the requested documents in full in relation to twenty-one documents (as depicted in *Figure 4*). Twenty documents were already public.

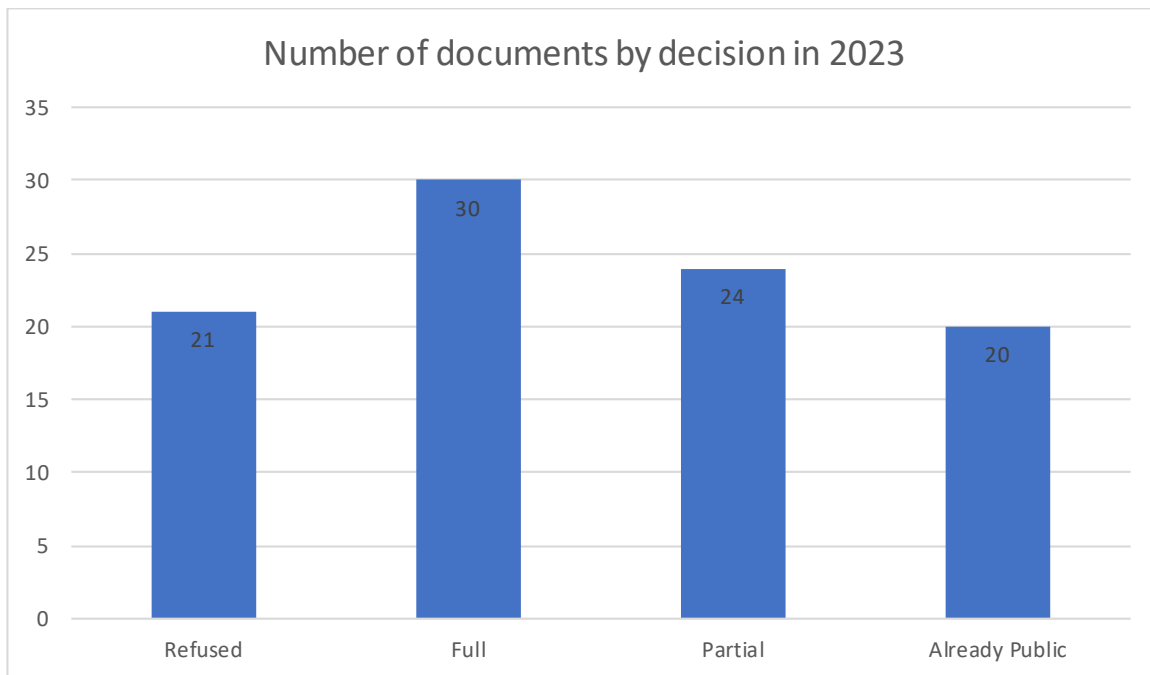


Figure 4

III. Exceptions

Eurojust adheres to its obligations under Regulation 1049/2001 by taking into account various interests and rights that must be protected when determining whether to disclose documents or not. The statistics on the exceptions applied are provided in *Figure 5*.

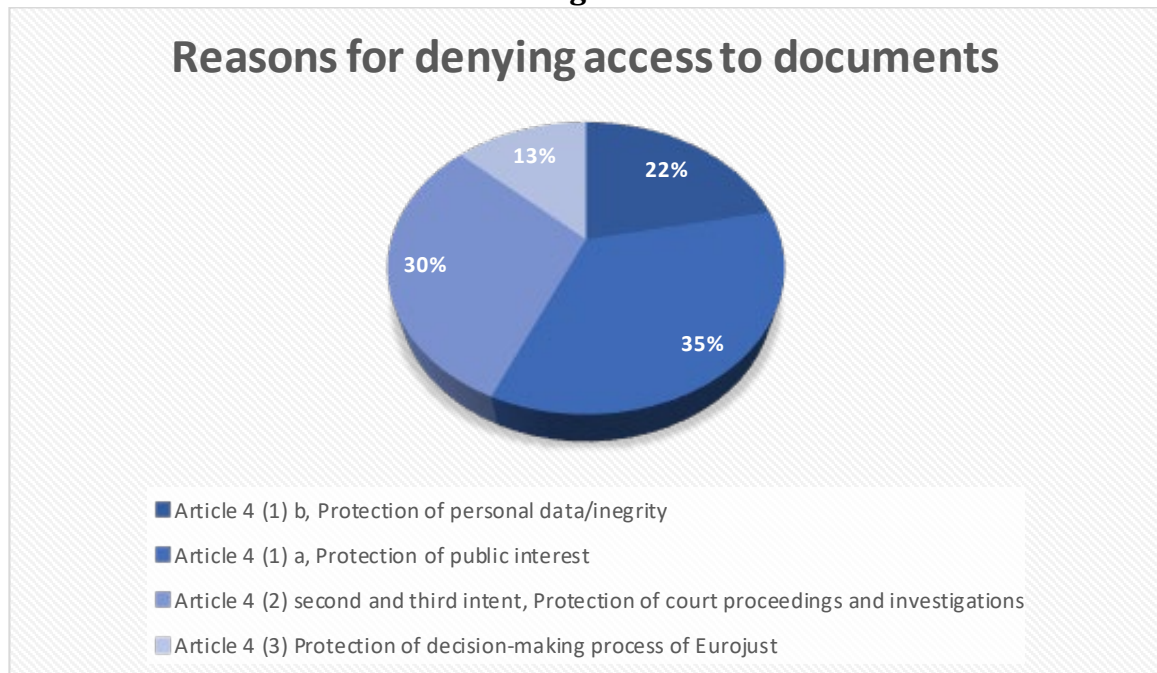
When assessing the disclosure of operational documents, Eurojust takes into consideration the protection of public security, in order to ensure the proper fulfilment of its mandate to enhance coordination and cooperation among national investigating and prosecuting authorities (as outlined in Article 4(1) (a) first indent of College Decision 2021-12).

Additionally, Eurojust places a strong emphasis on protecting personal data, as outlined in Article 4(1)(b) (on the protection of privacy and integrity of the individual) of the aforementioned College Decision, making it the most frequently applied exception for administrative documents and the second most frequently applied for operational ones.

Many documents at Eurojust pertain to ongoing investigations and court proceedings, thus the exceptions laid down in Article 4(2), second and third indent of the aforementioned College Decision, play an important role in determining whether to disclose documents or not.

In addition, certain documents drawn up by Eurojust for its internal use or received by it, concerning matters on which Eurojust has not taken a decision, have been dealt with under the exception mentioned in Article 4(3) in order to establish whether they should be disclosed.

Figure 5



Public Register

Eurojust continued to expand the number of documents made publicly available through its [Public Register](#). This database allows citizens to easily search and find documents held by Eurojust without the need to make a formal request, contributing to increased transparency and greater accessibility of information about Eurojust's activities.