# 2024 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 2024. According to Article 74(1) of the <u>Eurojust Regulation</u>, <u>Regulation 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on access to documents</u> applies to documents held by Eurojust.

## II. OVERVIEW OF REQUESTS

In 2024, Eurojust received 20 initial applications for public access to documents, 3 confirmatory applications and 9 third-party consultations, as shown in *Figure 1*. Overall, this represents a decrease compared to the previous year (2023), in which Eurojust received 35 initial, 4 confirmatory and 5 third-party consultations.

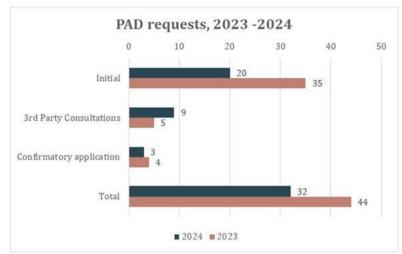


Figure 1

In 2024, the requests related to 9 case-related documents and to 23 non case-related ones (*Figure 2*).

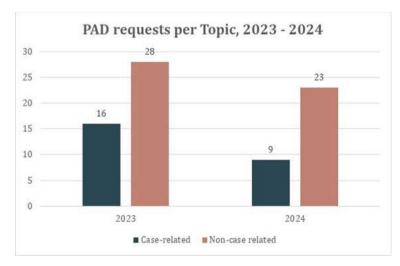


Figure 2

The responses to requests for 2024 are summarized in *Figure 3*. Eurojust provided full access in 7 applications, partial access in 2 applications and refused access in 3 applications. In one application, the requested documents were already in the public domain. Additionally, in 8 requests Eurojust did not hold any of the requested documents.

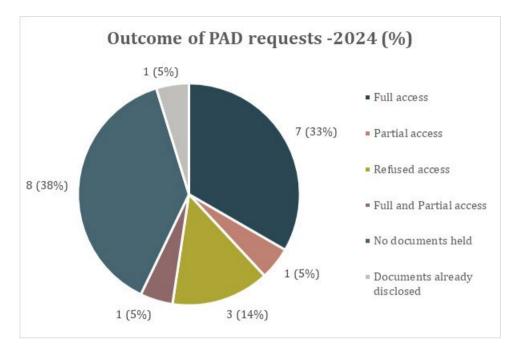


Figure 3

Eurojust granted full access to twelve documents and partial access to 8 documents, while six documents were already public (as depicted in *Figure 4*).

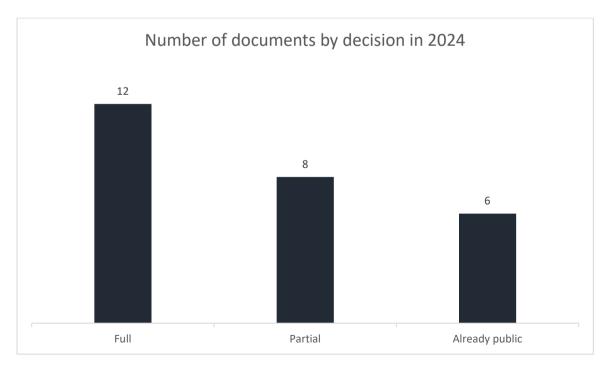


Figure 4

#### 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. When assessing the disclosure of case-related 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.

Additionally, Eurojust places a strong emphasis on protecting personal data, as outlined in Article 4(1)(b) of College Decision 2021-12 on the protection of privacy and integrity of the individual. Given Eurojust's mandate and work, many documents 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.

### **Public Register**

Eurojust continued to expand the number of documents made publicly available through its <u>Public Register</u>. 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.