

2022 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 2022. 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 2022, Eurojust received 13 requests for public access to documents and 7 third-party consultations, as shown in *Figure 1*. This represents a decrease compared to the previous year, in which 20 individual requests for public access to documents and 9 third-party consultations were received.

Building on lessons learned from internal practice, Eurojust reviewed its first policy on public access to documents in 2021 and adopted a new set of rules in [College Decision 2021-12](#). In 2022, Eurojust applied this policy to all access to documents requests it received, ensuring that all requests were handled in accordance with the rules outlined in this Decision.

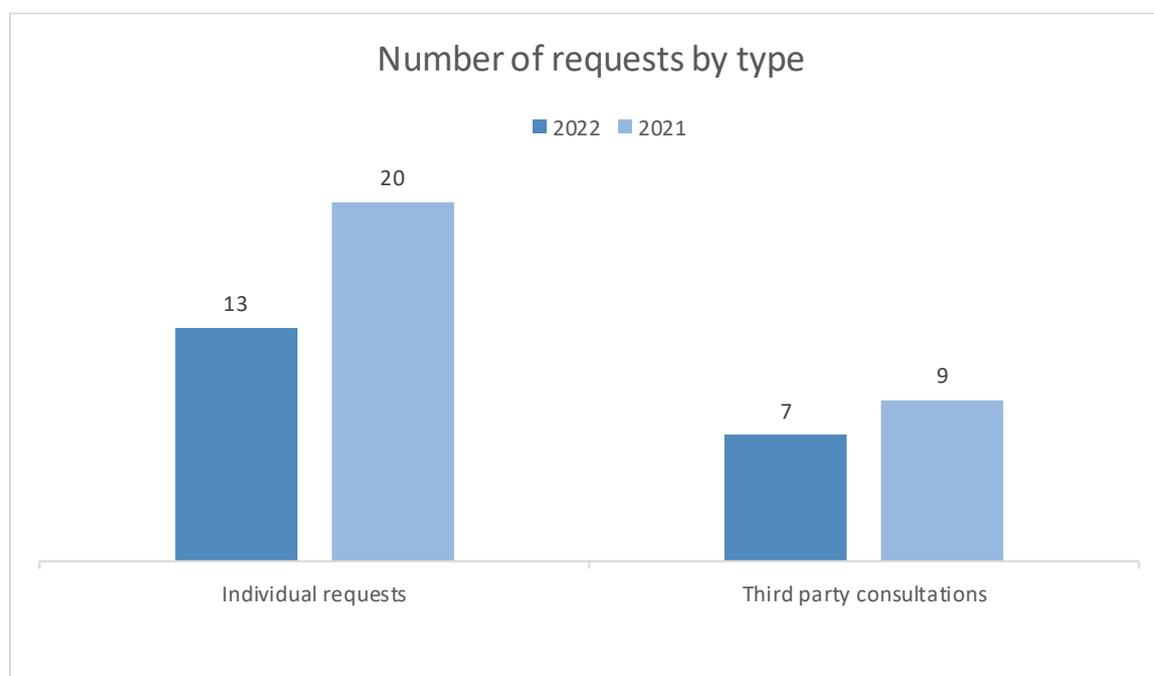


Figure 1

In 2022, the requests related to 13 operational documents and to 10 administrative ones. (*Figure 2*).

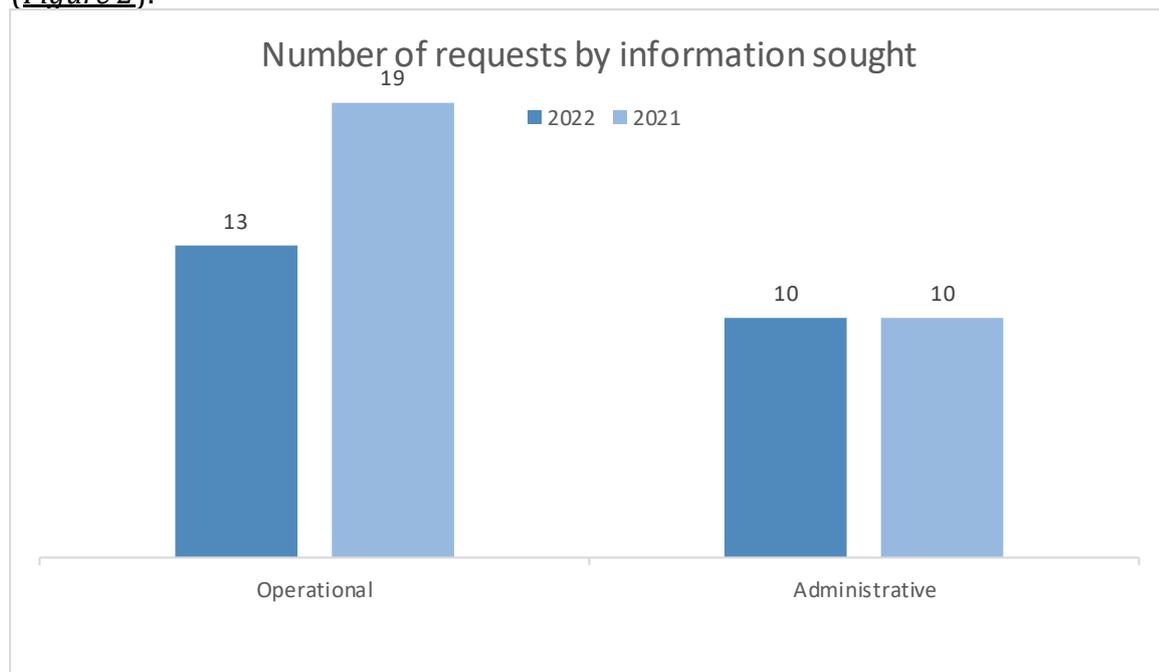


Figure 2

The responses to requests for 2022 are summarized in *Figure 3*. Of the 13 requests received, three resulted in full or partial disclosure of the requested documents, four requests were denied access, and one request was determined to be already in the public domain. Additionally, two requests were closed as Eurojust did not hold the requested documents, two were closed due to lack of clarification from the applicants, and one was closed following the provision of additional information and clarification by Eurojust to the applicant.

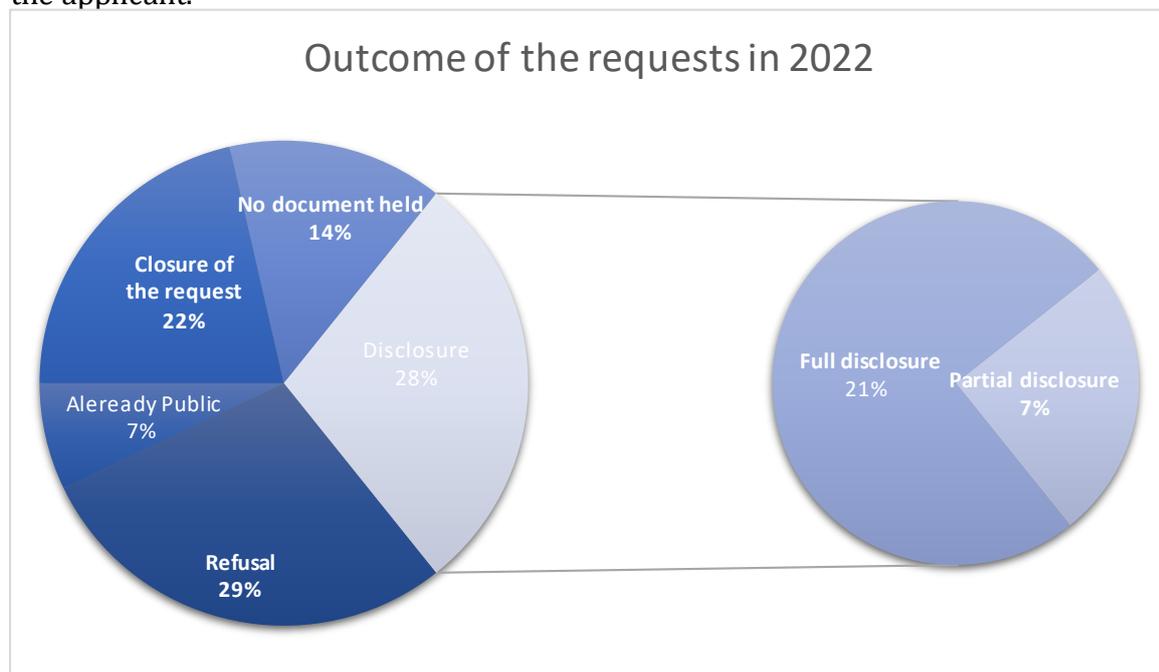


Figure 3

Eurojust granted access to eight documents, i.e. full access to five documents and partial access for three documents. In four requests, Eurojust refused access to the requested documents in full, which related to six documents (as depicted in [Figure 4](#)).

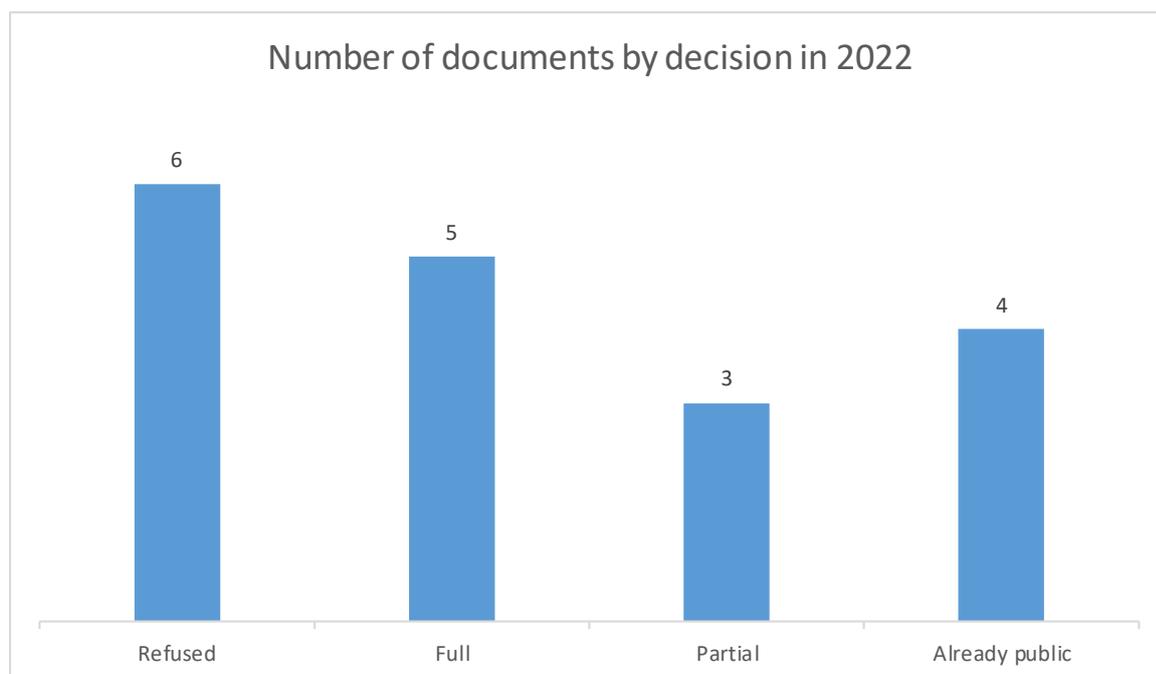


Figure 4

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. 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 legal 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.

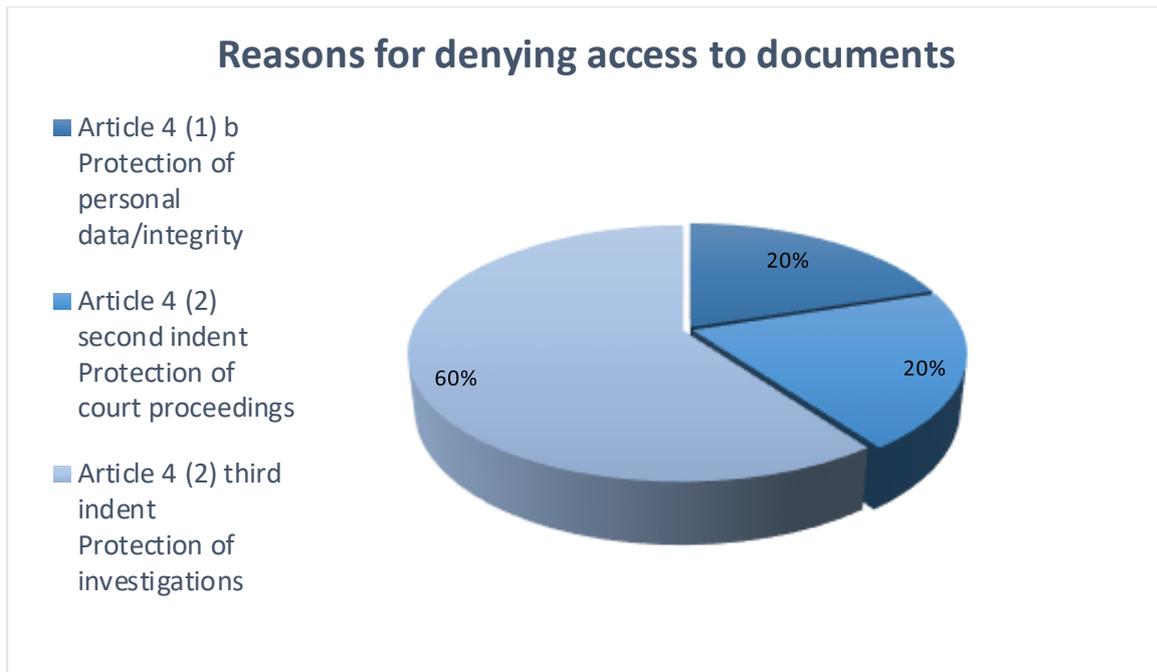


Figure 5

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.