COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 4 June 2012

10684/12

LIMITE

PE-QE 226

PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPLY TO WRITTEN QUESTION
E-004374/2012 put by Martin Ehrenhauser (NI)

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Permanent Representations of the Member States
Subject: "Breakdown of documents by security classification levels"

1. Delegations will find attached:
   
   – the text of the above Written Question;
   – a preliminary draft reply prepared by the General Secretariat.

2. If no comments have been received from delegations by **17.00 on 20 June 2012**, this preliminary draft reply will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

   Any comments received will be examined by the Working Party on General Affairs.
Question for written answer E-004374/2012
to the Council
Rule 117
Martin Ehrenhauser (NI)

Subject: Breakdown of documents by security classification levels

1. Can the Council say how many documents classified EU RESTRICTED, EU CONFIDENTIAL, EU SECRET and EU TOP SECRET it produced in 2009, 2010 and 2011, broken down by classification level? If not, why not?

2. Can the Council say how many documents classified EU RESTRICTED, EU CONFIDENTIAL, EU SECRET and EU TOP SECRET it supplied to Member States in 2009, 2010 and 2011, broken down by Member State and classification level? If not, why not?

3. Can the Council say how many documents classified EU RESTRICTED, EU CONFIDENTIAL, EU SECRET and EU TOP SECRET it received from Member States in 2009, 2010 and 2011, broken down by Member State and classification level? If not, why not?
REPLY

to Written Question E-004374/2012

put by Martin Ehrenhauser (NI)


The table below gives the total number of EU classified documents handled by the Council for each of the years referred to by the Honourable Member:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification level</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED</td>
<td>8859</td>
<td>7869</td>
<td>7051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECRET UE/EU SECRET</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>9392</td>
<td>8381</td>
<td>7551</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a general rule, Council documents are distributed to all members of the Council, representatives of the Commission and the EEAS and their relevant administrative services which have to ensure that access is granted only to individuals with a need to know. However, in a few cases some documents are not distributed to all EU Member States on account of specific Treaty provisions (e.g. Article 5 of Protocol No. 22). Most classified documents relate to the CFSP, and a significant number are received by the Council from the Commission and the EEAS.

For reasons of confidentiality and the principle of originator control, the Council is not in a position to provide detailed information on how many classified documents it receives from each Member State.