

PRESS RELEASE No 88/25

Luxembourg, 9 July 2025

Judgment of the General Court in Case T-1031/23 | Kaili v Parliament

Access to documents: the General Court annuls the decision of the Parliament refusing to grant its former Vice-President, Ms Eva Kaili, access to certain documents

Such access does not undermine the protection of court proceedings

On 15 December 2022, on the basis of an investigation concerning the management of parliamentary allowances, the European Chief Prosecutor, Ms Laura Kövesi, requested that the President of the European Parliament, Ms Roberta Metsola, lift the parliamentary immunity of Ms Eva Kaili, the former Vice-President of the Parliament. Ms Metsola decided to announce the request in the plenary session of the Parliament and to refer that request to the Committee of Legal Affairs. Ms Kaili then applied to the General Court of the European Union for annulment of both the European Chief Prosecutor's request and the decision of the President of the Parliament ('the case brought before the General Court'). ¹

Subsequently, Ms Kaili requested that the Parliament grant her access to documents relating to all cases concerning irregularities in the management, by Members of the European Parliament, of allowances relating to accredited parliamentary assistants. ² The Parliament refused access to those documents on the ground that such access would undermine the protection of the court proceedings in the case brought before the General Court. Ms Kaili claims that the General Court should annul that decision of the Parliament.

The General Court annuls the decision of the Parliament.

The General Court finds that the requested documents, which concern the Parliament's administrative activity, were not drawn up for the purposes of the proceedings in the case brought before the General Court and do not contain internal positions of the Parliament relating to that case file. Moreover, the subject matter of the requested documents is different from the subject matter of the case brought before the General Court. In the requested documents, the Parliament examined the irregularities in the specific management by Members of the European Parliament of allowances relating to accredited parliamentary assistants. By contrast, in the case brought before the General Court, that court was called upon to examine the legality of the European Chief Prosecutor's request and of the decision of the President of the Parliament. Consequently, **disclosure of the requested documents is not liable to compromise equality of arms** in the case brought before the General Court.

The General Court also notes that access to the requested documents would not be detrimental to the sound administration of justice in the case brought before the General Court.

In those circumstances, access to the requested documents cannot be refused on the ground of the protection of court proceedings.

NOTE: An action for annulment seeks the annulment of acts of the institutions of the European Union that are contrary to EU law. The Member States, the European institutions and individuals may, under certain conditions,

bring an action for annulment before the Court of Justice or the General Court. If the action is well founded, the act is annulled. The institution concerned must fill any legal vacuum created by the annulment of the act.

NOTE: An appeal, limited to points of law only, may be brought before the Court of Justice against the decision of the General Court within two months and ten days of notification of the decision.

Unofficial document for media use, not binding on the General Court.

The <u>full text and, as the case may be, an abstract</u> of the judgment is published on the CURIA website on the day of delivery.

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Images of the delivery of the judgment are available on 'Europe by Satellite' @ (+32) 2 2964106.

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¹ Order of the General Court of 16 January 2024, Kaili v Parliament and EPPO, <u>T-46/23</u> (see also Press Release No <u>9/24</u>).

² The application was made on the basis of <u>Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001</u> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents.