

Reply by the European Commission on a decision from the European Ombudsman on how the European Commission dealt with a news agency's (dts Deutsche Textservice Nachrichtenagentur GmbH) request to be added to a mailing list for embargoed news releases (case 477/2023/EIS)

BACKGROUND

A news agency based in Germany requested to be added to a Eurostat mailing list to receive under embargo press releases concerning 'Euro indicators', which provide regular economic statistical information. Eurostat refused the request, arguing that only journalists accredited by the European Commission could be included on such mailing lists. The journalist and his news agency were ineligible for accreditation because they did not meet one of the conditions—namely that at least one journalist from the agency must be domiciled in Belgium. The journalist argued that this practice was discriminatory, as it effectively restricted access to embargoed information to larger media organisations with sufficient financial resources to maintain journalists in Belgium. In its Decision of 11 November 2024¹, the Ombudsman found that this practice constituted maladministration.

THE REPLY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Commission has taken into account the Ombudsman's requests and is extending the possibility of receiving press material under embargo to news agencies without a correspondent based in Brussels. News agencies must be based in one of the Member States and meet the conditions for annual media accreditation to EU Institutions published on the Commission's website.²

To register for the Commission's distribution lists of material under embargo, news agencies will need to provide a) the name of the news agency; b) a generic email address; c) a form on embargo rules signed by the legal representative of the news agency.

¹ [Decision on how the European Commission dealt with a news agency's request to be added to a mailing list for embargoed news releases \(case 477/2023/EIS\) | Decision | European Ombudsman](#)

² https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/contact/press-services/media-accreditation/annual-media-accreditation-eu-institutions_en;

At the same time, the very large number of potential recipients that the extension entails makes it more challenging to track and identify embargo breaches. Considering the specific nature of Euro indicators, which are market sensitive, the current practice of distribution to news agencies of Euro indicators press releases under embargo will therefore be discontinued by Eurostat.

For the Commission
Ursula VON DER LEYEN
The President

