



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Director-General

Brussels  
INTPA/KD

Maximilian Henning  
Eendrachtscade 12-35  
9726 CW Groningen  
The Netherlands

**Subject: Your application for access to documents EASE 2022/5761**

Dear Mr Henning,

We refer to your request for access to European Commission documents registered on 10/10/2022 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to *all minutes, agendas, summaries, notes or memos issued before or after; documents prepared for, issued in preparation for, or exchanged during; as well as all correspondence including attachments by either of the meeting parties related to the 14.07.2022 meeting between TFE Energy GmbH and Arto Virtanen.*

The following documents fall within the scope of your application:

- E-mail: Flash report: Subject: EU Partnership with Africa / developing countries - European Technology, author: Village Data Analytics, addressee: CAB URPILAINEN CONTACT, 24/05/2022, reference Ares(2022)3931881 (hereafter ‘document 1’),
- E-mail: Meeting request: Subject: RE: EU Partnership with Africa / developing countries - European Technology, author: CAB URPILAINEN, addressee: Village Data Analytics, 23/06/2022, reference Ares(2022)4622592 (hereafter ‘document 2’),
- E-mail: Meeting request: Subject: Report Village Analytics, author: Arto Virtanen, addressee: CAB UPRILAINEN, 15/09/2022, reference Ares(2022)6921460 (hereafter ‘document 3’).

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, we have come to the conclusion that the documents may be partially disclosed. Some parts of the documents have been

blanked out as their disclosure is prevented by the exceptions to the right of access laid down in Article 4(1) b) and first indent of Article 4(2) of this Regulation.

With regard to the document 1-3 listed above, a complete disclosure of the identified documents is prevented by the exception concerning the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual outlined in Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, because they contain the following personal data:

- the names/initials and contact information of Commission staff members not pertaining to the senior management;
- the names/initials and contact details of other natural persons;

Article 9(1)(b) of the Data Protection Regulation does not allow the transmission of these personal data, except if you prove that it is necessary to have the data transmitted to you for a specific purpose in the public interest and where there is no reason to assume that the legitimate interests of the data subject might be prejudiced. In your request, you do not express any particular interest to have access to these personal data nor do you put forward any arguments to establish the necessity to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest.

Consequently, we conclude that, pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access cannot be granted to the personal data contained in the requested documents, as the need to obtain access thereto for a purpose in the public interest has not been substantiated and there is no reason to think that the legitimate interests of the individuals concerned would not be prejudiced by disclosure of the personal data concerned.

In addition, the redacted parts of the documents contain commercially sensitive business information of the company that submitted it.

Disclosure of these parts can pose a real and non-hypothetical risk that would undermine the protection of the commercial interests of the entities involved by disclosing potentially sensitive information or giving an unfair advantage to competitors.

The exceptions laid down in Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 apply unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure of the documents.

In your application, you do not put forward any reasoning pointing to an overriding public interest in disclosing the documents requested. We have examined whether there could be an overriding public interest in disclosure, but we have not been able to identify such an interest. We conclude, therefore, that the protection of commercial interests prevails.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed to the Secretariat-General of the Commission within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter. You can submit it in one of the following ways:

**by asking for a review via your portal<sup>1</sup> account** (available only for initial requests submitted via the portal account),

**or by mail:**

European Commission  
Secretariat-General  
Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)  
BERL 7/076  
B-1049 Bruxelles

**or by email to:** [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours faithfully,

Koen DOENS  
Director-General

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request>