



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

The Director-General

Brussels, 21/08/2023
MP ener.a.1(2023)8273724

Ms Phoebe Cooke
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London E1 0SG
UK
by email: ask+request-13023-35af2a2b@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your application for access to documents – EASE 2023/3019

Dear Ms Cooke,

We refer to your e-mail of 24 May 2023 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 24 May 2023 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to *all documents—including but not limited to correspondence, emails, minutes, notes (hand written or electronic), audio or video recordings, verbatim reports, operational conclusions, lines to take, briefings, and presentations—related to the following meetings held between European Council's Energy portfolio and the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Gas (ENTSOG):*

- 1) A meeting in Brussels on March 7, 2023, held between Stefan Grassi and Ruud Kempener (cabinet members of Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson), and ENTSOG on 'Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Markets – Electricity Market Design reform'.*
- 2) A meeting in Brussels on October 26, 2022, held between Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson, and cabinet members Tatiana Marquez, Stefano Grassi, and Helena Hinto, and ENTSOG on 'Joint purchasing options'.*
- 3) A video conference on September 29, 2022, held between Director General of Energy, Ditte Juul Jørgensen, and ENTSOG, on the subject of 'Infrastructure, preparedness and energy security'.*
- 4) A video conference on June 21, 2022, between Director General of Energy, Ditte Juul Jørgensen, and ENTSOG, on 'security of supply and gas infrastructure'.*
- 5) An online meeting on October 10, 2021, between Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson, cabinet member Tatiana Marquez Uriarte and ENTSOG, on 'energy prices and security of supply'.*

6) A meeting in Brussels on January 16, 2020, between Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson, cabinet members Stefano Grassi and Kitti Nyitrai and ENTSOG on 'European Deal including possible contribution of gas, hydrogen; energy security'.

Your application concerns the following documents:

nr	Stakeholder	Ares	Date	Title
1	Hydrogen Roundtable	Ares(2023)5349508	27/09/2022	Briefing ENER/6812 - ENTSOG CEO Meeting for Hydrogen Roundtable
2	ENTSOG	Ares(2023)3873495	17/06/2022	Briefing ENER/6681
3	ENTSOG	Ares(2023)3503919	10/03/2023	Minutes SG+RK meeting with ENTSOG on 7 March 2023
4	ENTSOG	Ares(2023)3758804	07/03/2023	Exchange of emails re: meeting SG+RK with ENTSOG on 7 March 2023
5	Energy Platform Industry Advisory Group	Ares(2023)2068070	22/03/2023	Briefing for Commissioner Simson for the Industry Advisory Group of 26 October 2022
6	ENTSOG	Ares(2022)6904436	06/10/2022	Minutes of the Commissioner Simson's meeting with ENTSOG on 12 October 2021
7	ENTSOG	Ares(2021)6293956	08/10/2021	Mail exchange as follow up to invite KS – after the EC-ENTSOG meeting on storage situation
8	ENTSOG	Ares(2021)6293956	08/10/2021	Introduction by new ENTSOG President, Bart Jan Hoevers: Repurposing of the European gas grids
9	ENTSOG	Ares(2021)6293956	08/10/2021	Press Release
10	ENTSOG	Ares(2021)6293956	08/10/2021	Executive summary
11	ENTSOG	Ares(2021)6018653	04/10/2021	Invitation KS- Introduction by new ENTSOG President, on Repurposing of the European gas grids
12	ENTSOG	Ares(2021)6018653	04/10/2021	Repurposing of the European gas grids

13	ENTSOG	Ares(2023)3725259	30/05/2023	Briefing for Commissioner Simson's meeting with ENTSOG on 16 January 2020
14	ENTSOG	Ares(2020)933610	13/02/2020	Minutes of the Commissioner Simson's meeting with ENTOG's President Kamphus and DG Ingwersen on 16 January 2020

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, I have come to the conclusion that the documents n. 1-4, 7-8, 11-12, and 14 listed above may be partially disclosed.

In fact, 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, I 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 n. 1-4, 7-8, 11-12, and 14, 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. On the contrary, documents 6 and 9 are fully disclosed.

Access is granted to minutes of meetings with external parties. These documents were drawn up for internal use under the responsibility of the relevant service. They solely reflect the service's interpretation of the interventions made and do not set out any official position of the third parties to which the documents refer. They do not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

In addition, please note that document n. 1 is partially disclosed. In fact, part of the document has been blanked out as its disclosure is prevented by exception to the right of access laid down Article 4.2 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. In fact, the redacted part of the document contains sensitive information that could undermine commercial interests of Vestas.

Please note that also document n. 2 is partially disclosed, based on Article 4.1(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. In fact, the redacted parts of the document fall within the (EU) public security protection.

Moreover, document n. 5 is not disclosed since it is out of scope. In fact, the event of 26 October 2022 that you indicated in your request has not been a meeting between the Commission and ENTSOG. It has been the meeting of the Industry Advisory Group - one of the Commission's expert groups, counting currently 36 members and observers. Please note that ENSTOG is an observer, not a member of the Industry Advisory Group. In addition, documents of the 26 October 2022 meeting and other information about the Industry Advisory Group are available here: [Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities \(europa.eu\)](#).

In addition, please note that document n.10, marked as "confidential", includes some sensitive information on the EU gas security of supply situation that could undermine both international relations and commercial interests of the EU. Therefore, it cannot be disclosed as its disclosure is prevented by exception to the right of access laid down both in Article 4(1)(a) and in Article 4.2 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

Finally, please note that some of the documents originating from ENTSOG are outdated.

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 portal¹ 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

Yours sincerely,

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

Ditte Juul Jørgensen
Director General

p.p. Massimo Garribba
Deputy Director General