



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

The Director General

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Lora Verheecke
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Belgium

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By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Dear Ms Verheecke,

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2015/0927

We refer to your email dated 16/02/2015 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 16/02/2015 under the above mentioned reference number.

Your application concerns all communication, including e-mails, and documents related to the meeting between the Cabinet members of the EU Trade Commissioner with representatives of Goldman Sachs, which took place on 17/12/2014 in Brussels. We have identified two documents falling under the scope of your request:

- an exchange of emails between the Cabinet Malmström and Kreab Gavin Anderson, the consulting firm organising the meeting for their client Goldman Sachs, and
- a short account of the meeting.

The email exchange is fully released except for the names of the Cabinet Malmström's non-managerial staff members following our policy guidelines pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. The data of the third party, Kreab Gavin Andersson, has been released with their permission.

The meeting report was already partially disclosed on 28/01/2015 following an access to documents request by your organisation (GestDem 2015/0106). A part of the document has been blanked out as its disclosure is prevented by exceptions to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of the Regulation 1049/2001.

The expunged part of 91 words in section 2) of the document could harm the commercial interests of the company in question, in line with the exception set out in Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001. Disclosure of this part of the document would reveal specific positions taken by this company on international trade and investment matters in relation to third countries and could undermine the protection of its commercial interests.

The exceptions laid down in Articles 4(2) and 4(3) of the Regulation 1049/2001 apply unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure of the documents. Accordingly, we have also considered whether the risks attached to the release of the withheld part of this document are outweighed by the public interest in accessing the requested documents. We do not believe this to be the case.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretary-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission
Secretary-General
Transparency unit SG-B-4
BERL 5/327
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'L' followed by a horizontal line.

Jean-Luc DEMARTY