

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

OFFICE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENTS

The Director

Brussels, 13. 12. 2016
PMO/VG/FS

Ms Helen Darbishire
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Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem N° 2016/5975

We refer to your e-mail dated 25 October 2016 in which you request access to documents, registered the same day under the reference number mentioned above.

You request access to the travel expenses of First Vice-President Frans Timmermans for the period 15 March 2015 to 15 May 2015 inclusive. More specifically, you seek to obtain details on "both expenditure report and expense statement, including daily allowances, accommodation, misc. costs, meals deductions, holiday deductions, increased amount on exchange rate, amount paid for mission performer, advance paid, balance due and (again) total mission cost (...), travel agency costs, other costs, and the total for third parties", as contained in the mission summary fiches. You also seek to obtain details regarding the purpose of the mission, the name of the mission performer, the dates and place of the mission.

We enclose a copy of the documents requested.

You may reuse the documents requested free of charge for non-commercial and commercial purposes provided that the source is acknowledged, that you do not distort the original meaning or message of the documents. Please note that the Commission does not assume liability stemming from the reuse.

Please note however that the documents to which you have requested access contain personal data. In particular, they contain the name and contact details of the staff member who processed the expenditure settlement request, the id number and contact details of the Commissioner. Pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access to a document has to be refused if its disclosure would undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with Community legislation regarding the protection of personal data. The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. When access is requested to documents containing personal data, Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 becomes fully applicable. According to Article 8(b) of this Regulation, personal data shall only be transferred to recipients if they establish the necessity of

having the data transferred to them and if there is no reason to assume that the legitimate rights of the persons concerned might be prejudiced.

We consider that, with the information available, the necessity of disclosing the aforementioned personal data to you has not been established and/or that it cannot be assumed that such disclosure would not prejudice the legitimate rights of the persons concerned. Therefore, we are disclosing the documents requested expunged from this personal data.

Please note also that some parts of the documents have been blanked out as they fall outside the scope of the request. This concerns in particular the internal communications between the PMO and the mission performer in order to clarify specific points concerning the statement of expenses.

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 5/288
B-1049 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,



Veronica Gaffey

Enclosure: Copy of the documents requested