



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

The Director General

Brussels,
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By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Mr Hans Wetzels
Van Spilbergenstraat 84-3
1057RL Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Advance copy by email:
ask+request-3535-3f6fb2da@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref. GestDem No 2016/6119

Dear Mr Wetzels,

I refer to your application of 31 October 2016 in which you make a request for access to documents in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001,¹ registered under the above mentioned reference number.

In particular, you would like to receive access to:

‘ - Any study, impact assessment, forecast, paper or other document - commissioned or authored by any part of the European Commission or received from third parties (lobby group, NGO, academic, consultant, or other) - that assesses the impact of GMO food-labelling on the EU food industries in any particular member state(s) - especially in reference to and in the context of the TTIP negotiations.

- a list of meetings with detailed minutes and any other reports of such meetings between DG TRADE's officials (including the Commissioner and his Cabinet members) and other DGs and/or third parties (lobby group, NGO, academic, consultant, or other) where the topic of GMO food-labelling was discussed between January 2013 and December 2015 - especially in reference to and in the context of the TTIP negotiations. ’

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43.

The first part of your request (any study or other similar document that assesses the impact of GMO food-labelling on the EU food industries in any particular member state(s), especially in reference to and in the context of the TTIP negotiations) has been attributed to the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, who will reply directly to you².

This letter concerns only the second part of your request.

I regret to inform you that no documents were found that would fall under the scope of the second part of your request. The labelling of GMO food has never been discussed by DG TRADE officials in reference to, or in the context of, TTIP negotiations.

As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution.

Given that no such documents have been identified, the Commission is not in a position to handle your request.

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 5/282
B-1049 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Luc DEMARTY

² Application GestDem 2016/6310.