



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Secretariat-General

Directorate E - Policy Co-ordination II  
The Director

Brussels, 15.02.2017

SG/E/WS

Mr. Vincent Harmsen

By email only: [ask+request-3695-43b538bc@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-3695-43b538bc@asktheeu.org)

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GESTDEM No 2017/0047**

We refer to your e-mail dated 3/1/2017, registered on 4/1/2017 under GESTDEM 2017/0047, in which you make a request for access to documents.

You request access to the following: *"documents which contain the following information:*

*- all correspondence (including emails), agendas, minutes of meetings or any other reports of such meetings between officials of the Secretariat-General and representatives of Bayer, including -- although not limited to -- (one or more of) the following individuals:*

*-Bernd Halling  
-Isabel Gareis  
-Bernd Halling  
-Hannah Herscheid  
-Andrea Mertens  
-Philipp-Andreas Schmidt  
-Felix Uedelhoven*

*(between January 2016 and January 2017).*

*When 'officials' are mentioned in this request this includes the Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and his Cabinet."*

We have identified the documents in the Annex, which correspond to the description given in your application.

Please note that documents which fall under one of your previous requests for access to documents (GESTDEM 2016/7206 relating to the merger between Bayer and Monsanto) were considered within the scope of that specific request.

The documents you requested are enclosed, expunged of personal data, in particular name and contact details of individuals.

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.

You are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, 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 Brussels; or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu).

Yours faithfully,



William Sleath  
acting Director

Enclosures