



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Secretariat-General

Directorate E - Policy Co-ordination II  
The Director

Brussels,  
WS/ALB/cj/

Mr. Vincent HARMSEN  
Per email only: [ask+request-3696-7a5d4c0c@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-3696-7a5d4c0c@asktheeu.org)

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2017/0048**

We refer to your e-mail dated 03/01/2017 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 04/01/2017 under the above mentioned reference number.

Your request the following documents: *"on the topic of the active substance glyphosate, all correspondence (including emails), agendas, minutes of meetings or any other reports of such meetings between officials of the Secretariat-General and representatives of (one or more of) the following organizations: Bayer, Monsanto, Syngenta, ECPA, Cefic, Glyphosate Task Force, Hume Brophy, Fleishman-Hillard, Interel European Affairs, EPPA SA, European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources, FTI Consulting Belgium, Grayling, Kreab, Weber Shandwick, acumen public affairs, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, Dr. Knoell Consult, (between January 2016 and January 2017)".*

Your application concerns the following documents:

- 1) Letter from Monsanto to the European Commission on the refusal to grant access to the studies submitted by Monsanto in the context of the EFSA's risk assessment, 11 October 2016, Ares(2016)5882622.
- 2) Reply from the Office of the President of the European Commission to Monsanto, 8 November 2016, Ares(2016)6304175.

The documents to which you have requested access contain personal data. 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<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Official Journal L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1

When access is requested to documents containing personal data, Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 becomes fully applicable<sup>2</sup>.

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.

In case you would disagree with the assessment that the expunged data are personal data which can only be disclosed if such disclosure is legitimate under the rules of personal data protection, 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 Bruxelles  
or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Sleath', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William SLEATH  
Acting Director

Enclosures

---

<sup>2</sup> Judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU of 29 June 2010 in case 28/08 P, Commission/The Bavarian Lager Co. Ltd, ECR 2010 I-06055.