



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE and CONSUMERS

Directorate D: Equality and Union Citizenship  
**Unit D.2: Gender equality**

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Registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Brussels, 14 August 2018

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2018/3245**

Dear Madam,

We refer to your e-mail dated 13/06/2018 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 09/07/2018 under the above mentioned reference number.

We enclose copies of or links to the documents requested:

- Commission's follow-up to the EP's 2015 written declaration on the European Year on Combating Violence against Women, which was transmitted to the EP on 24 September 2015 (ref. [DCL-0004-2015](#)).
- Letter from Minister U. Augulis (Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia) to Commissioner V. Jourová on 27 May 2015 (ref. Ares(2015)2321346) and Commissioner V. Jourová's reply (ref Ares Ares(2015)3703428).
- Letter from MEP J. Kirton-Darling to Commissioner V. Jourová on 15 March 2018 (ref. Ares(2018)1448632) and Commissioner V. Jourová's reply (ref. Ares(2018)2418988).
- Parliamentary Questions [O-000080/2014](#), [E-015220/2015](#), [E-000496/2016](#), [E-004527/2016](#).

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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 that the personal data of staff who are not the main representative of the organisation from which a document originates, biometric data such as signatures, and contact details of individuals have been redacted by default, with reference to Article 4(1)(b) (protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual) of Regulation 1049/2001.

Furthermore:

- Letter from Minister U. Augulis (Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia) to Commissioner V. Jourová on 27 May 2015 (ref. Ares(2015)2321346): Please note that this document was received by the Commission from Minister U. Augulis (Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia). It is disclosed for information only and cannot be re-used without the agreement of the originator, who holds a copyright on it. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

- Letter from MEP J. Kirton-Darling to Commissioner V. Jourová on 15 March 2018 (ref. Ares(2018)1448632): Please note that this document was received by the Commission from MEP J. Kirton-Darling. It is disclosed for information only and cannot be re-used without the agreement of the originator, who holds a copyright on it. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

Some of the documents to which you have requested access contain personal data, in particular handwritten signatures.

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>.

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 a version of the documents requested in which these personal data have been redacted.

As to the handwritten signatures, which are biometric data, there is a risk that their disclosure would prejudice the legitimate interests of the persons concerned.

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

<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.

In case you would disagree with the assessment that the redacted data are personal data which can only be disclosed if such disclosure is legitimate under the applicable rules on the protection of personal data, 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 5/288  
B-1049 Bruxelles or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)

Karen Vandekerckhove