



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Secretariat-General

Directorate C - Transparency, Efficiency & Resources
The Director

Brussels
SG.C.1/CS/

By registered mail with AR

Mr Olivier Hoedeman
Corporate Europe Observatory
Rue d'Edimbourg 26
1050 Brussels
Belgium

Copy by email:
[ask+request-7557-
47abb13a@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-7557-47abb13a@asktheeu.org)

Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2020/0186

Dear Mr Hoedeman,

I refer to your e-mail of 7 January 2020 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 4 February 2020 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to, I quote:

‘- all documents – including but not limited to minutes, (hand-written) notes, audio recordings, verbatim reports, operational conclusions, lines to take, correspondence (including e-mails), and presentations – related to all meetings that President Ursula von der Leyen held with (representatives of) organisations, companies, consultancies, think tanks and self-employed individuals in the period between becoming President elect on 16 July 2019 and officially becoming President of the Commission on December 1st 2019’.

I also refer to your separate e-mail of 7 January 2020 in which you further request that ‘[...the access to documents request should also cover President elect von der Leyen’s transition team’.

On 10 January 2020, the European Commission sent you a clarification request, by which it informed you that the description given in your application does not enable it to identify concrete documents, which would correspond to your request.

Therefore, it invited you, pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 and the third paragraph of Article 2 of the detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, to specify your request by providing additional information making it possible to identify the documents requested.

By your email of 4 February 2020, you replied to the clarification request by confirming that you are interested in obtaining access to:

‘[...] a list of all meetings that President Ursula von der Leyen (as well as her transition team) held with interest representatives (organisations, companies, etc.) in the period between becoming President elect on 16 July 2019 and officially becoming President of the Commission on December 1st 2019’.

Based on the above, the Commission has identified the following document as falling within the scope of your request GESTDEM 2020/0186:

- List of meetings held between the President of the Commission (as well as her transition team) and interest representatives in the period between 16 July 2019 and 1 December 2019, reference Ares(2020)1441774.

Please note that the requested document consists of three pages. A list of meetings held between the President of the Commission and interest representatives is included in the first page of the requested document. Similarly, a list of meetings held between the Head of Cabinet of the President of the Commission, and other members of the Cabinet of the President, and interest representatives is included in the second and third page of the requested document, respectively.

Please note that wide partial access is granted to the requested document, a complete disclosure of which is prevented by the exception concerning the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual outlined in Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, because it contains the following personal data:

- the names and functions of natural persons external to the Commission, who are not considered as public figures acting in their public capacity.

Article 9(1)(b) of the Data Protection Regulation¹ does not allow the transmission of these personal data, except if you establish that it is necessary to have the data transmitted to you for a specific purpose in the public interest and where there is no reason to assume that the legitimate interests of the data subject might be prejudiced. In your request, you do not put forward arguments to establish the necessity to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, OJ L 2018, 21.11.2018, p.39.

Consequently, I conclude that, pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access cannot be granted to these personal data contained in the requested document, as the need to obtain access thereto for a purpose in the public interest has not been substantiated and there is no reason to think that the legitimate interests of the individuals concerned would not be prejudiced by disclosure of the personal data concerned.

In case you would disagree with this position, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, to submit 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 Secretariat-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission
Secretariat-General
Unit C.1. 'Transparency, Document Management and Access to Documents'
BERL 7/076
B-1049 Brussels, or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

Tatjana VERRIER

Enclosure: (1)