



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels
devco.r(2020)4260958

Mr Nikolaj Nielsen
EUobserver
Avenue d'Auderghem / Oudergemlaan 150
1040 Brussels
Belgium
By e-mail: ask+request-8354-1561423a@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2020/4260

Dear Mr Nielsen,

We refer to your e-mail dated 13 July 2020 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on the same date under the above-mentioned reference number. We also refer to our e-mail of 31 July 2020 through which the time limit for handling your application has been extended by 15 working days, in accordance with article 7(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹. We apologise for the delay in replying to you.

You request access to all the documents that served as a basis for obtaining the conclusions of the Commission's Report on the implementation of the European Fund for Sustainable Development (hereafter "the report"). You indicate that "[T]his includes, but is not limited to:

- All correspondence – including all attachments – regarding, mentioning or discussing the Relevance, Effectiveness and value added, Efficiency, Coherence and co-ordination, Sustainability.

- A list of all meetings held where these conclusions were discussed or mentioned, as well as all minutes of these meetings".

As a preliminary remark, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the conclusions of the report referred to in your request are based on the results and analysis provided in the external study that was commissioned for this purpose and which was published alongside with the Commission's report², including the methodology and list of documents provided in annexes 2 and 3.

¹Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43

² Implementation Report of the EFSD and the EFSD Guarantee Fund, Final report https://ec.europa.eu/eu-external-investment-plan/sites/devco-eip/files/efsd-implement_report-external_support_study-final.pdf

In light of your application, we have identified the following documents as being relevant to your request:

1. *European Commission (2018), 2017 EFSD Operational Report*
2. *European Commission (2019), 2018 EFSD Operational Report*
3. *European Commission (2020), 2019 EFSD Operational Report*
4. *European Commission (2017), Your guide to the EU External Investment Plan.*
5. *European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (2016) Evaluation of Blending, Final Report*
6. *Commission Decision of 13.12.2018 on the approval of the conclusion of EFSD guarantee agreements with selected eligible counterparts under the EFSD Guarantee, C(2018)8804*
7. *Commission Decision of 15.4.2019 on the approval of the conclusion of EFSD guarantee agreements with selected eligible counterparts under the EFSD Guarantee, C(2019)2780*
8. *Inter-service Consultation 2020/02061*
9. *European Commission (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows MSME Financing*
10. *European Commission (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows Digital For Development*
11. *European Commission (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows Sustainable Cities*
12. *European Commission (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows Energy Connectivity*
13. *European Commission (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows Agriculture*
14. *Minutes of the EFSD Strategic Board of 28 September 2017, 10 July 2018, 25 January 2019 and 22 January 2020*
15. *ECDPM (2019) Fostering the local dimension of blended finance: From principles to practice*
16. *Council of the European Union (2019), Europe in the world, The future of the European financial architecture for development*

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, we have come to the conclusion that the majority of the documents can be fully disclosed, while access has to be refused to document number 8. The disclosure is prevented by the exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4(3) of the aforementioned Regulation, since the related decision-making processes are not finalised.

You may reuse public documents, which have been produced by the European Commission or by public and private entities on its behalf based on the [Commission Decision on the reuse of Commission documents](#). You may reuse the documents disclosed free of charge and for non-commercial and commercial purposes provided that the source is acknowledged and 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.

In case you do not agree with this position, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 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
Secretariat-General
Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)
BERL 7/076
B-1049 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
Koen DOENS

Enclosures:

1. List of disclosed documents available with a public link
2. Commission Decision of 13.12.2018 on the approval of the conclusion of EFSD guarantee agreements with selected eligible counterparts under the EFSD Guarantee, C(2018)8804
3. Commission Decision of 15.4.2019 on the approval of the conclusion of EFSD guarantee agreements with selected eligible counterparts under the EFSD Guarantee, C(2019)2780
4. European Commission (2017). EFSD Guarantee Windows MSME Financing
5. European Commission (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows Digital for Development
6. European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows Sustainable Cities
7. European Commission (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows Energy Connectivity
8. European Commission (2017), EFSD Guarantee Windows Agriculture
9. Minutes of the EFSD Strategic Board of 28 September 2017
10. Minutes of the EFSD Strategic Board of 10 July 2018
11. Minutes of the EFSD Strategic Board of 25 January 2019
12. Minutes of the EFSD Strategic Board of 22 January 2020

Enclosure 1:

List of disclosed documents available with a public link

Document	Link:
Document 1: European Commission (2018), 2017 EFSD Operational Report	https://ec.europa.eu/eu-external-investment-plan/sites/devco-eip/files/documents/efds-report_en.pdf
Document 2: European Commission (2019), 2018 EFSD Operational Report	https://ec.europa.eu/eu-external-investment-plan/sites/devco-eip/files/documents/eip-operational-report_2018.pdf
Document 3: European Commission (2020), 2019 EFSD Operational Report	https://ec.europa.eu/eu-external-investment-plan/sites/devco-eip/files/documents/201016_efsd_op_report-_final-_ldef.pdf
Document 4: European Commission (2017), Your guide to the EU External Investment Plan.	https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/external-investment-plan-guide-nov17_en.pdf
Document 5: European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (2016) Evaluation of Blending, Final Report	https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/evaluation-blending-volume1_en.pdf
Document 15: ECDPM (2019) Fostering the local dimension of blended finance: From principles to practice	https://ecdpm.org/publications/fostering-local-dimension-blended-finance-principles-practice/
Document 16: Council of the European Union (2019), Europe in the world, The future of the European financial architecture for development	https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/40967/efad-report_final.pdf