



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Green Deal, Digital Agenda
The Director

Brussels, 16 November 2021
intpa.r(2021)7133753

Ms Naomi Hirst
GLOBAL WITNESS
London, United Kingdom

Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2021/6027

Dear Ms Hirst,

We refer to your e-mail of 8 October 2021 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 14 October 2021 under the above-mentioned reference number.

We enclose a copy of the documents requested.

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.

With regard to the documents *MEETING REQUEST: Microsoft and Aalto University on Digitalisation in Africa, open date 2021* and *FOLLOW UP to a meeting between Microsoft and cabinet Urpilainen 19/07/2021, additional materials sent by Microsoft* listed below, a complete disclosure of the identified document 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 they contain the following personal data: the names/initials and contact details of other natural persons.

Article 9(1)(b) of the Data Protection Regulation¹ does not allow the transmission of these personal data, except if you prove 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.

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 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39.

In your request, you do not express any particular interest to have access to these personal data nor do you put forward any arguments to establish the necessity to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest.

Consequently, I conclude that, pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access cannot be granted to the personal data contained in the requested documents, 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.

Yours faithfully,

Carla MONTESI
[e-signed]

Enclosures:

MEETING REQUEST: Microsoft and Aalto University on
Digitalisation in Africa, open date 2021
FLASH REPORT: Cab Urpilainen meeting with CELA Microsoft -
17/09/2021
FOLLOW UP to a meeting between Microsoft and cabinet
Urpilainen 19/07/2021, additional materials sent by Microsoft