



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate A – Energy policy: Strategy and Coordination  
A.1 – Interinstitutional, Policy Coordination and Planning  
The Head of Unit

Brussels, 10/05/2023  
MP ener.a.1(2023)4982726

Mr Barnaby Pace  
Global Witness c/o WeWork  
Rue de Commerce 31  
1000 Brussels

By email: [ask+request-10935-4aa0505e@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-10935-4aa0505e@asktheeu.org)

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – EASE 2022/1936**

Dear Mr Pace,

We refer to your e-mail of 1 April 2022 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 1 April 2022 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to *all documents—including but not limited to correspondence, emails, minutes, notes (hand written or electronic), audio or video recordings, verbatim reports, operational conclusions, lines to take, briefings, and presentations—related to the meeting on March 17 between Stefano Grassi and Tatiana Marquez Uriarte and Shell Companies.*

Your application concerns the following documents:

Nr.	Stakeholder	Ares	Date	Title
1	Shell	Ares(2023)541156	03/03/2022	MEETING REQUEST [SG] 17-18/03/2023 Brussels BE with Shell
2	Shell	Ares(2023)2944856	26/04/2023	MINUTES -Meeting SG-TMU 17/03/2022 -Shell

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, I have come to the conclusion that the documents listed above may be partially disclosed.

In fact, a complete disclosure of the identified documents 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 information of Commission staff members not pertaining to the senior management;
- the names/initials and contact details of other natural persons.

Article 9(1)(b) of the Data Protection Regulation 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. 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.

Access is granted to minutes of a meeting with external parties (document n.2). This document was drawn up for internal use under the responsibility of the relevant service. It solely reflects the service's interpretation of the interventions made and does not set out any official position of the third parties to which the document refers. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

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 to the Secretariat-General of the Commission within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter. You can submit it in one of the following ways:

**by asking for a review via your portal<sup>1</sup> account** (available only for initial requests submitted via the portal account),

**or by mail:**

European Commission

Secretariat-General

Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)  
BERL 7/076

B-1049 Brussels

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request>

or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours sincerely,

*Electronically signed*

Paula Abreu Marques