Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2022/2765

Dear Madam,

We refer to your e-mail of 16 May 2022 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 16 May 2022 under the above-mentioned reference number.

1- all correspondence (including email) between 1st December 2019 and 12 July 2020 between Commissioner Simson, Commissioner Timmermans, Commissioner Breton, President van der Leyren, and/or their cabinets and/or officials from the European Commission on one hand and representatives from WWF EPO, Greenpeace EU, ECOS, Food & Water Action Europe, European Environmental Bureau, European Climate Foundation, Carbon Market Watch, Friends of the Earth, Transport & Environment, Germanwatch, CAN Europe on the other, in which the Hydrogen strategy was addressed.

2- list of meetings between 1st December 2019 and 12 July 2020 between officials and representatives of the European Commission on one hand and representatives from WWF EPO, Greenpeace EU, ECOS, Food & Water Action Europe, European Environmental Bureau, European Climate Foundation, Carbon Market Watch, Friends of the Earth, Transport & Environment, Germanwatch, CAN Europe on the other, in which the Hydrogen strategy was addressed.

3- minutes of the meetings mentioned above.

Please note that due to the wide scope of your request, covering also areas falling under the responsibility of other Directorates-General, parts of your request have been attributed to other Directorates-General. This reply relates only to the documents held by the DG GROW. You received / will receive the replies from the other respective Directorates-General in due course.

We have identified the 6 documents presented in the enclosed table.
With regard to documents 1 to 3, 5 and 6, 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;
- handwritten signatures/abbreviated signatures of 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.

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 document/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 document/documents. Please note that the Commission does not assume liability stemming from the reuse.

The minutes of the meetings were drawn up for internal use and solely reflects the author's interpretation of the interventions made and do not set out any official position of the third parties to which the document refers, which was not consulted on its content. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

Please note that documents originating from third parties are disclosed to you based on Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. However, this disclosure is without prejudice to the rules on intellectual property, which may limit your right to reproduce or exploit the released documents without the agreement of the originator, who may hold an intellectual property right on them. The European Commission does not assume any responsibility from their reuse.

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 faithfully,

Electronically signed

Kerstin Jorna
Director-General

Enclosure: 7