

## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate D - Twin Transition, Economic & Social Affairs SG.D.1 - Digital Transition, Industry & Single Market

> Brussels SG.D.1/CG

Nienke Palstra Global Witness Rue Belliard 53 1000 Bruxelles Belgium

Email: ask+request-11318f2c98fef@asktheeu.org

Dear Ms Palstra,

## **Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2022/3058**

We refer to your e-mail of 24 May 2022 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 24 May 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 2022-03-10 between Penelope Papandropoulos and Werner Stengg and Google".

We have identified the following documents related to your request:

- 1. E-mail exchange between Cabinet Vestager and Google Ares(2022)1537878
- 2. Meeting report Ares(2022)1854346
- 3. Follow-up message Ares(2022)1862760
  - 3a. Attachment on combining personal data
  - 3b. Attachment on comments to text

With regard to the documents identified, a complete disclosure 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 institutions or natural persons.

Article 9(1)(b) of the Data Protection Regulation (Regulation 2018/1725) 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 neither express any particular interest to have access to these personal data, nor put forward arguments to establish the necessity to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest.

Document 2 was drawn up for internal use under the responsibility of the relevant services of the European Commission. It solely reflects the author's interpretation of the interventions made and does not set out any official position of the third parties to which the document refers, which were not consulted on its content. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

Document 3a contain information related to commercial interests of a natural or legal person, which has also been redacted as its disclosure is prevented by the exception to the right of access laid down in the first subparagraph of Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. 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

Elisa ROLLER Director

Enclosure: disclosed documents