Dear Mr Peters,

Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2022/3756 – Request for clarification

We refer to your e-mail registered on 30 June 2022 in which you make a request for access to documents.

The handling of your request involves the assessment and redaction of a very significant amount of individual documents. The analysis of these documents, together with the need to consult the stakeholders concerned in accordance with Article 4(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, cannot be expected to be completed within the normal time limits set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

However, Article 6(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 also provides for a possibility to confer with an applicant informally with a view to finding a fair solution when an application relates to a very long document or concerns a very large number of documents.

In accordance with the case law of the EU Courts, such a solution can only concern the content or the number of documents requested, not the deadline for replying. This means that the scope of the request must be reduced in a way that would enable its processing within the extended deadline of 15 + 15 working days.

Based on the above-mentioned provision, we would kindly ask you to specify the objective of your application and your specific interest in the documents requested, and whether you could narrow down the scope of your application, so as to reduce it to a more manageable amount of documents.
In order to enable us to respect the time-limits of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, we would ask you for a swift reply to our invitation to propose a fair solution, within five working days at the latest:

- by e-mail to: FISMA-ACCES-DOCUMENTS@ec.europa.eu

In the absence of a reply within five working days, we will unilaterally restrict the scope of your application to those parts that can be dealt with within the extended deadline of 30 working days, counting from the registration of your application 30 June 2022.

Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Yours faithfully,

Alain DECKERS
Head of Unit