



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, 03/02/2023  
MP ener.a.1(2023)1206997

Mr Barnaby Pace  
Global Witness  
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By email: [ask+request-11997-c69fd45d@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-11997-c69fd45d@asktheeu.org)

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – 2022/5858**

Dear Mr Pace,

We refer to your request for access to European Commission documents registered on 13 October 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 May 19 between Kadri Simson and Gas Distributors for Sustainability.*

The following documents fall within the scope of your application:

Nr	Stakeholder	Ares	Date	Title
1	Gas Distributors for Sustainability (GD4S)	Ares(2022)1241495	18/02/2022	Release of GD4S Sustainability Charter 'Decarbonising the gas grid as a key enabler for a climate neutral society'
2	Gas Distributors for Sustainability (GD4S)	Ares(2023)530440	08/04/2022	POSITIVE REPLY FOR MEETING Release of GD4S Sustainability Charter 'Decarbonising the gas grid as a key enabler for a climate neutral society'

3	Gas Distributors for Sustainability (GD4S)	Ares(2022)3901190	23/05/2022	Release of GD4S Sustainability Charter 'Decarbonising the gas grid as a key enabler for a climate neutral society': Thank you letter
4	Gas Distributors for Sustainability (GD4S)	Ares(2023)531053	19/05/2022	Minutes of the Meeting with GD4S of 19 May 2022

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.

In addition, please note that documents originating from third parties, which have been consulted, 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.

With reference to documents originating from Commissioner Simson and/or her Cabinet, we are awaiting contribution from the Cabinet and will be able to complement this reply only once we receive it.

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 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,

*Electronically signed*

Paula Abreu Marques

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