Subject: Your application for access to documents 2023/2077

Dear Mr Wetzel,

We refer to your request for access to European Commission documents registered on 04/04/2023 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to:

- All incoming or outgoing correspondence (including emails, sent or received) between DG AGRI officials (including the Commissioner and Cabinet members) and members, employees or representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) between the 1st of January 2022 and the 29th of March 2023.

- A list of meetings, including detailed minutes and any other reports of such meetings, between DG AGRI officials (including the Commissioner and Cabinet members) and members, employees or representatives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) dating between the 1st of January 2022 and the 29th of March 2023.

We have identified 11 documents falling within the scope of your request. You will find enclosed a list of these documents, as well as redacted copies of them.

With regard to the documents listed above, 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 (1) 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 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.

Please note that the documents Nos 2.1 - Ares(2023)218745, 4.1 - Ares(2022)6459149, 8.1 and 8.2 (Ares (2023)2775787) originating from third parties are disclosed to you based on Regulation (EC) No1049/2001. 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 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 (2) account (available only for initial requests submitted via the portal account),
- or by mail:

European Commission
Secretariat-General


(2) https://www.ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request
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

Yours faithfully,

Electronically signed

Cristina Carrasco Lorente
Head of Unit

Enclosure: 11 documents