Subject: Your application for access to documents 2023/4614

Dear Mr Azalbert,

We refer to your request for access to European Commission documents registered on 02/08/2023 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to “(a)ll correspondence exchanged in all forms and formats (...) between the organization bearing the name “Bilderberg Meeting” and the European Commission and in particular, those of the Commissioners who participated in the events of the organization.”

In addition, you request access to “(a)ll correspondence exchanged in all forms (...) between the organisation known as the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the European Commission and in particular Commissioners who have participated in the organisation’s events.” Furthermore, you refer to documents in relation to these meetings, as “documents received, given, or written on site”.

The temporal scope of your request covers the period from 01/01/2018 until 02/08/2023.

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. (1) This reply relates only to the documents held by the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs and the relevant parts for Commissioner Gentiloni. You received /will receive the replies from the other respective Directorates-General in due course.

On 14/09/2023 we provided you with documents held by DG ECFIN concerning meetings with the organization “Bilderberg Meeting”.

This reply concerns thus documents held by DG ECFIN in relation to the second part of your request, namely documents pertaining to the “World Economic Forum (WEF)”.

A list of these documents with their titles (Annex 1) and the documents selected themselves are attached to this reply.

With regard to the documents 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14 and 15 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 details of other natural persons;

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(1) Under the following references: EASE 2023/4615 (DG JUST); EASE 2023/4616 (DG HR) and EASE 2023/4617 (PMO).
– handwritten signatures/abbreviated signatures of natural persons;
– other information relating to an identified or identifiable 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.

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 to the Secretariat-General of the Commission within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter. You can submit it

by mail, to:

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

Yours faithfully,

Henrik Kersting
Head of Unit

Electronically signed

Electronically signed on 20/10/2023 14:38 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121