Dear Ms Bigaignon,

Subject: Your application for access to documents EASE No 2024/2227

I refer to your request for access to documents of 26 April 2024, registered on the same day under the above-mentioned reference number.

You requested access to “All correspondence, preparatory documents, minutes of meetings and any other report of such meetings, notes, logs of phone calls having occurred in 2023 between officials/representatives/Commissioner/cabinet member of DG ENVI and the following private companies and stakeholders:

- Philippe Morris International;
- British American Tobacco;
- Japan American Tobacco;
- And any lobby group or individual when these exchanges are related to tobacco or nicotine products.”

We regret to inform you that the Directorate-General Environment does not hold the requested documents, as no such meetings or correspondence occurred, nor were any documents on the subject exchanged among the mentioned persons and stakeholders during 2023.

As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, the right of access as defined in that Regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution.

Given that no such documents, corresponding to the description given in your application, are held by the Directorate-General Environment, I am unfortunately not in a position to fulfil your request.

Ref. Ares(2024)3739718 - 24/05/2024

Sent by email to:
ask+request-14504-
a0191567@asktheeu.org
In this context, I would like to inform you that information on my meetings with organisations and self-employed individuals is publicly available. Indeed, all Directors-General of the European Commission publish information on meetings held with organisations or self-employed individuals on issues relating to decision-making and policy implementation in the Union, in accordance with Commission Decision 2014/838/EU, Euratom.

Furthermore, information on meetings by current Commissioners and their Cabinets with organisations and self-employed individuals is equally publicly available, pursuant to Commission Decision 2014/839/EU, Euratom.

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 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

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Florika FINK-HOOIJER

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1 See Meetings with organisations and self-employed individuals (europa.eu)
3 For Commissioner Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, responsible for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, see Virginijus Sinkevičius - European Commission (europa.eu)
5 https://www.ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request