



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
JRC
Director-General

Brussels, 22. 05. 2015
JRC.B/RL/ Ares(2015)S

Corporate Europe Observatory
Mundo B
Rue d'Edimbourg 26
Brussels 1050
For the attention of Mr P. Sabido

Subject: Your request for access to documents Gestdem nr 2015/2083

Dear Mr Sabido,

I refer to your requests for access to documents concerning the European Science and Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction (hereinafter referred to as the Network) which you submitted through the web site Askthe EU on 8 April 2015 and which was registered as one request in the Gestdem database under the above number. I will deal with your requests in the order you submitted them on 8 April.

1. All documents relating to the budget for the European Science & Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction, including overall budget figures, different budget lines, as well as the contributor of the various parts of the budget i.e. which Commission departments or companies contributed, how much, and what for.

On this point we can confirm that the only document making reference to budget related to the Network is an Administrative Arrangement for Policy Support on Unconventional Oil and Gas between the JRC by DG RTD which I will send to you by separate e-mail. No other Directorates-General of the Commission or companies contribute to the budget of the Network.

The document to which you have requested access contains personal data, in particular the names of Commission officials.

Pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access to a document has to be refused if its disclosure would undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with Community legislation regarding the protection of personal data. The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data¹.

¹ OJ L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1

When access is requested to documents containing personal data, Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 becomes fully applicable².

According to Article 8(b) of this Regulation, personal data shall only be transferred to recipients if they establish the necessity of having the data transferred to them and if there is no reason to assume that the legitimate rights of the persons concerned might be prejudiced.

We consider that, with the information available, the necessity of disclosing the aforementioned personal data to you has not been established and/or that it cannot be assumed that such disclosure would not prejudice the legitimate rights of the persons concerned. Therefore, we are disclosing the document requested expunged from this personal data.

2. All minutes of the meetings and correspondence of the Steering Committee of the European Science & Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction.

Under this request, we identified the minutes of the meeting of the steering committee of 08/09/2014, the minutes of the meeting of Directors of the relevant Commission departments dated 05/12/2014 and a series of e-mails between Commission departments and their attachments. If some documents appear twice this is because they were attached to more than one of the e-mails.

The documents to which you have requested access contain personal data, in particular the names of Commission officials and other persons.

Pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access to a document has to be refused if its disclosure would undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with Community legislation regarding the protection of personal data. The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

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² Judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU of 29 June 2010 in case 28/08 P, Commission/The Bavarian Lager Co. Ltd, ECR 2010 I-06055.

3. All documents, minutes of meetings and correspondence relating to the application and selection procedure of members to the European Science & Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction, including with those who were either not accepted or did not accept an offer, as well as any document which outlines the procedure behind choosing members.

Under this request we identified the Director's meeting's minutes of 05/12/2014 mentioned in point 2 above as well as a large number of e-mails and their attachments. The e-mails and their attachments relate to the composition of the Network and its working groups and contain names of third parties.

The documents to which you have requested access therefore contain personal data, in particular the names of Commission officials and other persons.

Pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access to a document has to be refused if its disclosure would undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with Community legislation regarding the protection of personal data. The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

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We consider that, with the information available, the necessity of disclosing the aforementioned personal data to you has not been established and/or that it cannot be assumed that such disclosure would not prejudice the legitimate rights of the persons concerned. Therefore, we are disclosing the documents requested expunged from this personal data.

4. All documents, minutes of meetings, correspondence and evidence of interaction between Cuadrilla and/or ConocoPhillips and the JRC relating to the European Science & Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction in the last two years.

Here we identified minutes of meetings relating to the working groups of the Network, e-mail exchanges between Commission staff and participants in the working groups including a representative from Cuadrilla and one from ConocoPhillips.

The documents to which you have requested access contain personal data, in particular the names of Commission officials and other persons.

Pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access to a document has to be refused if its disclosure would undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with Community legislation regarding the protection of personal data. The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000

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We consider that, with the information available, the necessity of disclosing the aforementioned personal data to you has not been established and/or that it cannot be assumed that such disclosure would not prejudice the legitimate rights of the persons concerned. Therefore, we are disclosing the documents requested expunged from this personal data.

All of the identified documents will be sent to you by separate e-mail in view of their volume. You find a list of them enclosed.

In case you would disagree with the assessment that the expunged data are personal data which can only be disclosed if such disclosure is legitimate under the rules of personal data protection, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter to the Secretary-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission
Secretary-General
Transparency unit SG-B-4
BERL 5/327
B-1049 Bruxelles
or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours faithfully,



Vladimír ŠUCHA
Director General

Annex: list of documents