



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate B

Brussels,  
SG/B.3/MIA-DCB

Ms Vicky Cann  
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By e-mail:

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**Subject: Your application for access to documents in accordance with Regulation 1049/2001– Ref. GestDem 2015/3714**

Dear Ms Cann,

We refer to your e-mail dated 13 July 2015 and registered on 14 July 2015 under the above-mentioned reference number.

*In your e-mail, you request, "... copies of all subsequent applications by former Commissioner Máire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN which seeks Commission authorisation for new professional activities under the commissioner code of conduct, including as co chair of a review team on gender equality in Irish higher education institutions. I would further like to request any emails, correspondence and meeting notes which relate to these applications; all opinions from the ad hoc ethical committee on each case; and copies of the Commission's final decision in each case."*

I have identified 5 documents falling within the scope of your request:

1. E-mail of Ms Geoghegan-Quinn to Ms Day of 10.06.2015 [Ref. Ares(2015)2432040];
2. LS consultation- [Ref. Ares(2015)2474509 and Ares(2015)2534237];
3. Commission Decision C(2015)4257 of 19.06.2015;
4. PV (2015)2132 of 24.06.2015;
5. Letter of Ms Day to Ms Geoghegan-Quinn of 24.06.2015 [Ref. Ares(2015)2649970];

You will find a detailed list enclosed.

## 1. PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Document n° 4 contains the extracts of the minutes of the Commission's meeting in which the decision on Ms Geoghegan-Quinn post-mandate activity was adopted. Please note that the minutes are already available to the public and therefore, a copy is not enclosed.

## 2. CONCLUSIONS UNDER REGULATION 1049/2001

Following the examination of your request and of the documents concerned, I am pleased to grant you:

- Partial access to documents n° 1, 3 and 5 and to the e-mails and draft decisions in document n° 2.

You will find copies enclosed.

The reasons for the refusal of the deleted parts of the above-mentioned documents are set out below.

The deleted parts of documents n° 1 contain the e-mail address of the former Commissioner and document n° 5 also contains her postal address. This is also the case of certain deleted parts in the e-mails included in document n° 2, which contain the names and the e-mail addresses of the Commission's officials in charge of the file. As regards document n° 1, the draft decisions in document n° 2 and the decision in document n° 3, they also contain references to contractual details and for obvious reasons this is personal data covered by the exception provided for in Article 4 (1) (b) of Regulation 1049/2001. Disclosing this information would reveal personal data and may undermine the privacy of the concerned Commissioner as well as of Commission officials.

In its judgment in the *Bavarian Lager* case<sup>1</sup>, the Court of Justice ruled that when a request is made for access to documents containing personal data, Regulation (EC) No. 45/2001<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter the 'Data Protection Regulation') becomes fully applicable.

The concerned documents contain elements which undoubtedly constitute personal data in the meaning of Article 2(a) of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001, as they reveal information about an identified or an identifiable person. According to Article 8(b) of the Data Protection Regulation, which is fully applicable in this case, personal data shall only be transferred to recipients if the recipient establishes the necessity of having the data transferred and if there is no reason to assume that the data subject's legitimate interests might be prejudiced.<sup>3</sup> Those two conditions are cumulative.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Judgment of the Court of Justice of 29 June 2010, Case C-28/08P, *European Commission v The Bavarian Lager Co. Ltd.*

<sup>2</sup> 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, Official Journal L 8 of 12.1.2001

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Judgment of the Court of 20 May 2003 in joined cases C-465/00, C-138/01 and C-139/01, preliminary rulings in proceedings between *Rechnungshof and Österreichischer Rundfunk*, paragraph 73.

Consequently, access to personal data contained in the relevant parts of the above-mentioned documents has to be refused on the basis of the exception provided for in Article 4 (1) (b) of Regulation 1049/2001.

If you wish to appeal against this decision, you should write to the Commission Secretary-General at the address [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu). You have fifteen working days from receipt of this letter in which to appeal.



Marianne Klingbeil  
Director SG B f.f.

Annexes

Cc: [SG-DOSSIERS-ACCES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:SG-DOSSIERS-ACCES@ec.europa.eu)