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Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate A - Resources, Information and Policy Coordination
Information, Communication and Civil Society

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Lora Verheecke
Corporate Europe Observatory
Rue d'Edimbourg 26
1050 Brussels
Belgium

By email:

[ask+request-2428-
7f57b44e@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-2428-7f57b44e@asktheeu.org)

By registered mail

Dear Ms Verheecke,

Subject: Your applications for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2015/6145

We refer to your email dated 25/11/2015 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on the same day under the above mentioned reference number.

Your application concerns "*all communication, including e-mails, and documents (agenda, minutes, list of participants, etc.) related to the meeting between Maria Ásenius and Nele Eichhorn and British Chamber of Commerce on 17th November 2015*".

There are two documents that relate to this meeting and we are pleased to give you full access to these documents, which are:

1. Meeting request from Nick Blow, dated 21 October 2015 – Ares(2015)4457308;
and
2. Meeting report – Ares(2015)5564770.

Personal data in document 2 has been withheld according to the protection of personal data as provided in Article 4.1 (b) of the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. Pursuant to this article, access to a document or part of it 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.

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. Therefore, we are disclosing the document requested expunged from this personal data.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this decision.

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

Please note that you may reuse these documents free of charge for non-commercial and commercial purposes provided that the source is acknowledged and that you do not distort the original meaning or message. The Commission does not assume liability stemming from the reuse.

Yours sincerely,



Lutz Güllner
Head of Unit

¹ OJ L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1

² Judgment in *Commission v Bavarian Lager*, EU:C:2010:378, paragraphs 63-64; judgment in *Guido Strack v Commission*, EU:C:2014:2250, paragraphs 101.

From: nick blow [mailto:nick@strategiscommunications.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 9:49 AM
To: ASENIUS Maria (CAB-MALMSTROM)
Subject: Meeting request - John Longworth, Director General the British Chambers of Commerce

Dear Mrs. Asenius,

I am writing to you on behalf of **John Longworth, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce** to request a brief and informal meeting with you for a high-level discussion of current EU trade policy and any other EU matters that may be of interest to you such as BREXIT.

The British Chambers of Commerce is a not-for-profit entity based in London which represents 105,000 UK-based businesses, many of them SMEs.

John Longworth will be in Brussels from **Monday afternoon 16 November** until **Wednesday lunchtime 18 November**.

With many thanks in advance and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Blow
EU affairs adviser to BCC
Managing Director
Strategis Communications
3 rue du Luxembourg
1000 Brussels
Tel. +32 477 937 499

From: [4.1(5)] CAB-MALMSTROM)
Sent: 03 December 2015 18:20
To: [4.1(6)] CAB-MALMSTROM)
Subject: Meeting with the British Chambers of Commerce– Brussels 17 November 2015

Meeting with the British Chambers of Commerce– Brussels 17 November 2015

Maria Åsenius met with John Longworth, the Director General of British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) on 17 November 2015 at his request. Mr Longworth presented the views of the BCC on TTIP where he considered that the prime motivation for the US on TTIP is not trade but the aim to fix international standards before the emergence of China. He considered the new Commission strategy on Internal Market as weak on services and enforcement. On the other hand, he wondered that if TTIP succeeds in opening up the US services market to the EU, what the UK would gain because their companies already have advantages in the US market. He also wondered who would represent the SMEs once TTIP is agreed?

M. Åsenius gave her views on these points. Mr Longworth confirmed the reservations about TTIP benefits that the BCC continues to have. He queried about the timeline of negotiations and considered that there was not enough communication and awareness about TTIP. M. Åsenius stated that the end of negotiations is difficult to predict but that the EU continues to be ambitious. She also provided an overview of the transparency initiative in TTIP.

Mr Longworth presented the views of the BCC on EU reforms on the basis of his letter to PM Cameron. The letter set out five areas where businesses in the UK want to see change: guarantees for non-Eurozone countries, UK opt-out from the principle of “ever-closer Union”, less regulatory burden and more enforcement, Internal market that works, balanced approach to migration. On the issue of migration, the Chambers consider that the cap on 3rd countries is artificial while the unlimited intra EU migration exerts undue downward pressure on wages.