

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate A - Resources, Information and Policy Coordination
A3, Information, Communication and Civil Society

Brussels, **01 FEB. 2016**
Trade A3/ls (2016) 301794
Ms Lora Verheecke
CEO
Rue d'Edimbourg 26
1050, Brussels, Belgium

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2016/0068

Dear Ms Verheecke,

I refer to your request for access to documents, registered under the above mentioned reference number.

I understand that you would like to have access to:

* all communication, including emails and documents (agenda, minutes, list of participants, etc.) related to the meeting between Cécile Billaux and le Cercle de l'Industrie on 15th December 2015.

Please note that the meeting between Cécile Billaux and le Cercle de l'Industrie actually occurred on 14th December 2015.

Three documents have been identified as falling under the scope of your request:

- 1) An e-mail dated 14/12/2015 containing information about the purpose of the meeting, participants and topics discussed
- 2) An e-mail dated 30/11/2015 which includes a request for a meeting with Ms Billaux
- 3) A CV of the Cercle de l'Industrie 's Executive Officer

I am pleased to grant you full access to documents (1) and (2), although no access can be granted to document (3).

The latter, corresponding to the annex of one of the documents identified, is a Curriculum Vitae which cannot be released as it is covered by Article 4.1 (b) of the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

Personal data of the Commission staff members, as well as members of the industry, have been in fact withheld according to 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. I consider that, with the information available, the necessity of disclosing the aforementioned personal data to you has not been established. Therefore, I am disclosing the document requested expunged from this personal data.

In line with the Commission's commitment to ensure transparency and accountability³, the Commission discloses the names and meetings of those who bear political responsibility within the Commission. I am therefore pleased to inform you of the identity of the Members of the Cabinet. The names of chief officers of the private companies are also available.

Part of document (1) has been deleted as not relevant to the scope of your request.

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

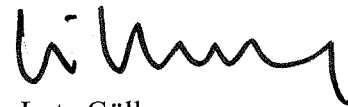
¹ OJ L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1

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.

³ See Commission decisions C(2014) 9051 and C(2014) 9048 of 25 November 2014 on the publication of information on meetings held between Members and Directors-General of the Commission and organisations or self-employed individuals, respectively available at http://ec.europa.eu/news/2014/docs/c_2014_9051_en.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/news/2014/docs/c_2014_9048_en.pdf

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Güllner', with a stylized, wavy line extending from the end.

Lutz Güllner
Head of Unit