

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

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

Brussels, **12 MAI 2016**
trade.a.3.dir(2016)2664349

Vicky Cann
Corporate Europe Observatory
Rue d'Edimbourg 26
1050 Brussels
Belgium

By email: ask+request-2569-4846e0f5@asktheeu.org

By registered mail

Dear Ms Cann,

Subject: Your applications for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2016/0916

We refer to your emails dated 11/02/2016 and 23/02/2016 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 25/02/2016 with the above mentioned registration number.

In your application you seek access to *"all agendas, minutes, meeting reports, and preparatory documents for all meetings held since 1 December 2014 by the commissioner, cabinet or director-general with the following: Bertelsmann Stiftung, Bruegel, Centre for European Policy Studies, Centre for European Reform, European Centre for International Political Economy, Friends of Europe, Open Europe."*

We have identified the following meetings and documents that relate to your request:

- **11/12/2014 Brussels:** Joint event organized by Open Europe and Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit (FNF) - Meeting request Ares(2014)3045515 and thank you letter Ares(2014)4236670. There is no report as the event consisted of Commissioner's public appearance and speech. More on the event: (<http://fnf-europe.org/2014/12/16/not-just-another-trade-negotiation-on-the-strategic-importance-of-ttip/>). (**Documents 1 and 2**)

- **05/03/2015 Brussels:** Meeting between Head of Cabinet Christian Burgsmueller and Bertelsmann Stiftung on TTIP – Invitation Ares(2016)2008519 – no meeting report. (**Document 3**)
- **09/03/2015 Brussels:** European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE) - WTO post-Bali dinner in honour of Pascal Lamy - CBI Invitation Ares(2015)779429. Commissioner Malmström attended the dinner, there is no report. (**Document 4**)
- **12/03/2015 Brussels:** Meeting between Head of Cabinet Christian Burgsmueller and Bruegel on TTIP. Invitation was accepted and followed up by phone calls with André Sapir, no documents exist. The event was recorded and is accessible to the public online: <http://bruegel.org/events/a-fresh-start-for-t-tip-strategies-for-moving-forward/>
- **19/03/2015 Brussels:** Event organized by Friends of Europe (FoE) – Commissioner Malmström invited as a speaker Ares(2014)4296322 (email with invitation letter attached), initial positive reply Ares(2015)179037 and list of participants Ares(2015)1222087. Information on the event: <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/event/trade-21st-century-challenge-regulatory-convergence/> (**Documents 5, 5a, 6 and 7**)

Documents 1, 2 and 3 are fully disclosed. In documents 4, 5, 5a, 6 and 7 we have redacted names of the Commission non-managerial staff as well as names of third party individuals that are not public.

The names have 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 documents requested expunged from this personal data.

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.

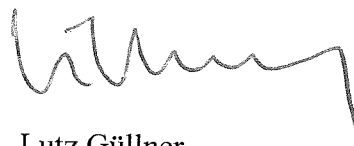
~~In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.~~

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 sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lutz Güllner', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lutz Güllner
Head of Unit