



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
The Director-General

Brussels,
REGIO B4(2016)SW

By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Chris Harris
56 Quai Rambaud
69002 Lyon
France

Advance copy by email : ask+request-2893-f09ad377@asktheeu.org

Dear Mr Harris

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2016/2563

We refer to your e-mail dated 3 May 2016, in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 10 May 2016 under the above mentioned reference number.

We regret to inform you that no documents were found that would correspond to the description given in your application.

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) are managed under the "shared management" mode. This means that the Commission does not intervene in the "commitment" of individual projects, as you mentioned in your request, as this is done by the Member States. The management of the ESI Funds is entrusted to national bodies; the Member States' administrations (at national, regional and local level) choose which projects to finance and take responsibility for day-to-day management.

Major projects receiving more than EUR 50 million in support through the ESI Funds, are subject to an assessment and a specific decision by the Commission. However, also with respect to these projects the Commission does not hold a document as per your request.

Indeed, as specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution.

Given that no such documents have been identified, the Commission is not in a position to respond positively to 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 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 5/282
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

I would like to draw your attention to the following public websites where general or Fund-specific information on programmes and projects can be found which might be useful for you:

- "EU budget for results" providing information on a collection of 860 projects funded by the EU Budget:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects_en
- Data on European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF):
<https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>
- Information on some projects and major projects receiving support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and/or Cohesion Fund for previous programming periods provided by Member States:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/
- The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD):
<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en>

- Public access to information on beneficiaries of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) payments which are published on Member States' websites via the link which provides access to the relevant websites of the Member States:
http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/contracts_and_funding/the_european_transparency_initiative/index_en.htm.

Yours sincerely

Walter Deffaa