



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

The Director General

Brussels,
trade.dga2.g.3/BM/nk (2017)2392656

By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Thibault Devoldere
Renaat de Rudderlaan 6
8500 Kortrijk
Belgium

Advance copy by email:
ask+request-3542-b31bab6a@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref. GestDem No 2016/6180

Dear Mr Devoldere,

I refer your email of 1 November 2016 in which you make a request for access to documents in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹ (“Regulation 1049/2001”), registered on 3 November under the above mentioned reference number.

In particular, you would like to receive access to:

- *"all correspondence (including emails), agendas, minutes of meetings and any other reports of such meetings between officials of DG Trade (including the Commissioner and his/her Cabinet) and representatives of NGOs, companies, business associations and law firms with whom environmental and food safety standards were discussed in relation to TTIP (The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). Environmental and food safety standards include, but are not limited to, rules on the use of growth hormones in livestock farming; on pesticide residues; on chlorine-washed chicken; on endocrine disrupting chemicals; on tar sand oil, and on genetic engineering (GMOs);*

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43.

- *all documents held by DG TRADE (including minutes/memos/notes/reports for internal use) and all correspondences (including emails) relating discussions within the World Trade Organization (WTO) on maximum residue levels (MRLs) and/or crop protection product residues in general;*
- *all correspondence (including emails), agendas, minutes of meetings and any other reports of such meetings between officials of DG Trade (including the Commissioner and his/her Cabinet) where maximum residue levels (MRLs) and/or crop protection product residues in general were discussed".*

You specified in your email that you are "*requesting all documents within the time frame January 2012 till November 2016*" and that you would prefer to receive the documents "*on a rolling basis, rather than waiting until the full response is ready*".

In accordance with Article 6(2) of Regulation 1049/2001 concerning the possibility for an institution which is the addressee of a request for access to documents to reach a "fair solution" with the applicant, you agreed on 9 November to receive the documents in successive batches and to reduce the time frame for the documents requested under the first bullet point to the period from January 2012 until December 2013.

On 29 November 2016 we provided you with a reply covering the first bullet point of your request in relation to *tar sand oil* (Ares(2016)6673301).

On 23 December 2016 we provided you with a reply covering the first bullet point of your request in relation to *pesticide residues* and *GMOs*, as well as the second and third bullet points of your request (Ares(2017)300771).

On 14 February 2017, we provided you with a reply regarding the first bullet point of your request in relation to *growth hormones in livestock farming* and *chlorine-washed chicken* (Ares(2017)805972).

The present letter addresses the final, outstanding aspect of the first bullet point of your request in relation to *TTIP and endocrine disrupting chemicals*.

We regret to inform you that we have not identified any document that would fall within the scope of this last angle of your request. As we have made clear previously, the ongoing EU work to establish criteria to identify substances with endocrine disrupting properties is not in any way related to the – now suspended – TTIP negotiations with the US.

With this letter, we consider your request closed.

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
1049 Bruxelles
or by e-mail to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Luc DEMARTY