



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Food chain: stakeholder and international relations  
**Bilateral International relations**

Ref. Ares(2016)7049618 - 19/12/2016

Brussels,  
SANTE/D3/BK/mh (2016) 7647673

***By registered letter with acknowledgment  
of receipt***

Dear Mr Devoldere,

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2016/6171**

We refer to your email dated 1 November 2016 in which you make a request for access to documents, which was registered on 4 November 2016 under the above mentioned reference number. A holding letter was sent to you on 25 November 2016, which extended the deadline until 16 December 2016.<sup>1</sup>

You request access to “*all correspondence (including emails), agendas, minutes of meetings and any other reports of such meetings between officials of DG SANTE (including Commissioner and 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)*”.

Please find attached a table identifying the documents falling under the scope of your request and the provisions on the basis of which access was partially granted.

Some of the documents to which you requested access contain personal data, in particular documents no 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.

Pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access to a document 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 data<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Ares(2016)6621971.

<sup>2</sup> Official Journal L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1.

Mr Thibault Devoldere  
Renaat de Rudderlaan 6  
8500 Kortrijk  
BELGIUM

*Advance copy by email: [ask+request-3543-bb02898c@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-3543-bb02898c@asktheeu.org)*

When access is requested to documents containing personal data, Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 becomes fully applicable<sup>3</sup>.

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 and/or that it cannot be assumed that such disclosure would not prejudice the legitimate rights of the persons concerned. Therefore, we are disclosing the documents requested expunged from this personal data.

In case you would disagree with the assessment that the expunged data are personal data which can only be disclosed if such disclosure is legitimate under the rules of personal data protection, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, 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](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke with a vertical line intersecting it near the center, and a small loop at the end.

Koen Van Dyck

Enclosures:                      A list of documents falling under the scope of GestDem 2016/6171  
The documents that can be fully or partially disclosed

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<sup>3</sup> Judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU of 29 June 2010 in case C-28/08 P, Commission/The Bavarian Lager Co. Ltd, ECR 2010 I-06055.