



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

The Director General

Brussels
trade.dga1.c.1(2018)839713

By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Lora Verheecke
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)
26 rue d'Edimbourg
1050 Brussels

Advance copy by email:

ask+request-4852-435d2e7a@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref. GestDem No 2017/7337

Dear Ms Verheecke,

I refer to your application of 7 December 2017 in which you make a request for access to documents in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹, registered on 8 December 2017 under the above mentioned reference number.

In particular, you request access to *"a list of meetings of DG Trade officials and/or representatives (including the Commissioner and the Cabinet) and stakeholders, including trade unions, civil society groups, as well as representatives of individual companies, industry associations, law firms, public consultancies and think tanks in which the Japan-EU Free Trade Agreement (JEFTA) was discussed (between January 2017 and today)"*.

I regret to inform you that DG TRADE does not hold any documents that would correspond to the description given in your application, i.e. DG TRADE does not hold a list of the type of meetings you indicate.

As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation 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 corresponding to the description given in your application are held by DG TRADE, we are not in a position to share with you any documents under this request.

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.

Unfortunately, we only create such list of meetings under the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour, if doing so would not entail a disproportionate administrative burden for the Commission². However, in this particular case the administrative burden would be significant as the unit in charge of your request would need to identify and review quite a number of documents as well as to consult other units in DG TRADE, tasks which would be very burdensome to perform in the current circumstances in which the existing resources are devoted entirely to the conclusion of the negotiations with Japan.

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

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Luc DEMARTY

² In this respect, the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour requires the Commission to ensure "*that the application of this Code never leads to the imposition of administrative or budgetary burdens out of proportion to the benefit expected*".