



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

Directorate C : Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law
Unit C2 : Fundamental Rights Policy
Acting Head of Unit

Brussels,
JUST/C2/(2018)4301467s

**BY REGISTERED LETTER WITH
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**

Mr Arun Dohle
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Advance copy by email
ask+request-5705-875cded3@asktheeu.org

Dear Sir

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2018/3538

We refer to your e-mail dated 30 June 2018 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 2 July 2018 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You have asked for "All documents, including but not limited to mails, audio and video recordings of the Child-friendly justice and integrated child protection systems – lessons learnt from EU-funded projects, 26 and 26 June 2018".

Your application concerns a very large number of documents, primarily emails exchanged with individuals and the contractor concerning the organisation of the conference: Child-friendly justice and integrated child protection systems – lessons learnt from EU-funded projects, which took place in Brussels on 25 and 26 June 2018. All these documents need to be assessed individually. The analysis of these documents, in accordance with Article 4(4) of Regulation 1049/2001, cannot be expected to be completed within the normal time limits set out in Article 7 of Regulation 1049/2001 (hereafter the Regulation) due to the high workload implied.

Article 6(3) of the Regulation provides that in the event of an application relating to a very long document or to very large number of documents, the institution concerned may confer with the applicant informally, with a view to finding a fair solution.

In accordance with the case law of the EU Courts, such a solution can only concern the content or the number of documents applied for, not the deadline for replying.¹ This means that the scope of the request must be reduced in a way that would enable its treatment within the extended deadline of 15 + 15 working days.

¹ Judgment of the Court of Justice of 2 October 2014 in case C-127/13, *Guido Strack v Commission*, paragraphs 26-28.

Based on the above-mentioned provision, we would kindly ask you to specify the objective of your request and your specific interest in the documents requested², and whether you could narrow down the scope of your request, so as to reduce it to a more manageable amount of documents. A large number of documents concern organisational and logistical aspects. For example, email exchanges with the contractor concerning the logistics for the conference, and email exchanges with speakers and potential participants concerning their participation in the conference may not be relevant. Other documents will not have much content after the expunction of personal data.

In order to help you to narrow down your request, please note that the following categories of documents have been identified as falling under the scope of your request:

- E-mails exchanged with the contractor (approximately 60 documents, approximately 180 pages)
- E-mails exchanged with other European Commission services (approximately 40 documents, approximately 80 pages)
- E-mails exchanged with speakers/participants (approximately 120 documents, approximately 240 pages)
- Documents concerning coordination and logistics (agendas and minutes of coordination meetings) (6 documents, approximately 15 pages)
- Contract, offer and terms of reference (three documents, approximately 30 pages)
- Programme (one document, four pages)
- Biographies (one document, 12 pages)
- List of participants (one document, eight pages)
- Background document (one document, 14 pages)
- Invitations (approximately 17 documents, approximately 36 pages)
- Presentations and speaking points (24 documents, approximately 250 pages)
- Graphic recordings of discussions (six documents, six pages)
- Poster (one document, one page)

According to our first estimates, the handling of your request would take 74 working days³, broken down as follows:

- identification of the documents falling under your request: three working days;
- retrieval and establishment of a complete list of the documents identified: 10 working days;
- scanning of the documents: three working days;
- assessment of the content of the documents in light of the exceptions of Article 4 of Regulation 1049/2001: 15 working days;
- drafting of the reply: two working days;
- redaction of those parts of the documents to which one or several exceptions apply(ies): 30 working days;
- internal approval of the draft decision on your request: three working days;
- preparation of the reply and the documents for dispatch (scanning of the redacted versions, administrative treatment,...): eight working days.

² Ibid, paragraph 28; Judgment of the General Court (then 'Court of First Instance') of 22 May 2012 in case T-344/08, *EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg v Commission*, paragraph 105.

³ Taking into account other applications for access to documents and other tasks that the staff concerned are likely to have to deal with during the same period.

It follows that, according to our first estimates, a maximum of 360 pages of documents could possibly be dealt with within the extended deadline of 30 working days counting from the date of registration of your application on 2 July 2018.

In order to enable us to respect the time-limits of Regulation 1049/2001, we would ask you for a swift reply to our invitation to propose a fair solution, within five working days at the latest:

- by email to: ec-child-rights@ec.europa.eu

If you have any questions concerning the invitation, you can contact us by email at: ec-child-rights@ec.europa.eu

In the absence of a reply within five working days, we will unilaterally restrict the scope of your application to those parts that can be dealt with within the extended deadline of 30 working days (13 August 2018), counting from the registration of your application on 2 July 2018.

Yours faithfully

Georgia Georgiadou