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DIRECTORATE GENERAL
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The Director-General

DG ECFIN

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By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Michael Brennan
Political editor,
Sunday Business Post
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Dublin 2.
D02 WV96

Advance copy by email: ask+request-5752-
22e6e092@asktheeu.org

Dear Mr. Brennan,

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2018/4062

We refer to your e-mail dated 26/07/2018, in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 26/07/2018 under the above mentioned reference number.

You request access to the following documents:

- a) *"Policy briefing documents and post-prepared by representatives of the Troika ahead of their meetings of the Irish government in Dublin specifically related to Reform of the water sector, which included setting up Irish Water and introducing household water charges."*
- b) *"All post visit briefing documents prepared by representatives of the Troika after their meetings of the Irish government in Dublin specifically related to Reform of the water sector, which included setting up Irish Water and introducing household water charges".*

The timeframe for your request covers from December 2010 to April 2014.

As regards the requested policy briefings and post visit briefings prepared by other members of the Troika, i.e. the European Central Bank or the International Monetary Fund, we regret to inform you that the Commission does not hold these documents. Consequently, given that the right of access specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation 1049/2001 applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution, the Commission is not in a position to share them.

Concerning the requested policy briefings prepared by the Commission, please note that having examined these documents under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, I regret to inform you that the Commission cannot disclose these internal documents prepared ahead of missions as they are treated as confidential and their disclosure is prevented by an exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of this Regulation. They contain opinions for internal use only as part of deliberations or preliminary consultations, do not

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represent official views of the Commission, and their disclosure would seriously undermine the European Commission's decision-making process.

This exception laid down in Article 4(3) of Regulation 1049/2001 applies unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure of the document which has not been identified in this case.

Finally, we enclose a link to the post briefing documents prepared by the European Commission, i.e. the Economic Adjustment Programme for Ireland and the Economic Adjustment Programme for Ireland-Reviews: https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/eu-financial-assistance/which-eu-countries-have-received-assistance/financial-assistance-ireland_en#reports.

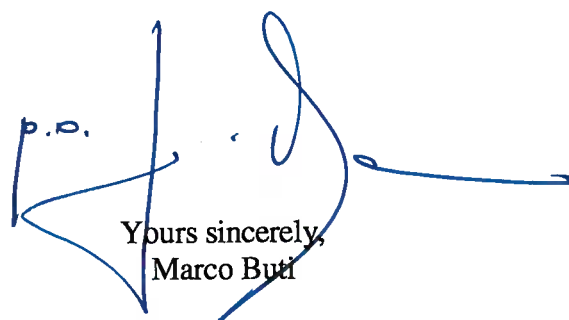
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In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

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

p.o.

Yours sincerely,
Marco Buti