Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem №6321

Dear Madam,

We refer to your email dated 28/11/2018 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 29/11/2018 under the above mentioned reference number.

We identified documents concerning one meeting with Rhodia Acetow (producer of cigarette filters) that took place 23/11/2018 on the topic: biodegradability of cigarette filters, which could fall within the scope of your request. We enclose relevant documents in relation to this meeting. In addition, regarding any emails, letters, agendas, minutes, and position papers we provide you with correspondence stating refusal to meet the British American Tobacco company.

Please note that the document contains some personal data, which has been expunged. 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 data1.

When access is requested to documents containing personal data, Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 becomes fully applicable2. 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.

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1 Official Journal L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1
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 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-acce-doc@acc.europa.eu

Yours faithfully,

Jean-Yves MUYLLE
Head of Unit

Enclosures: 1. Meeting with Rhodia Acetow and Sébastien Paquot (Cabinet Vella)
- emails and presentations.

2. Refusal emails.