



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate B - Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport  
**B.4 - Sustainable & Intelligent Transport**

Brussels,

**Mr. BUSTER JENSEN**  
**Danish National TV**  
**Emil Holms Kanal 20**  
**0999 Copenhagen**  
**Danemark**

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

***By e-mail:ask+request-7223-  
efde2f74@asktheeu.org***

**Subject:       Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2019/5244**

Dear Mr. Buster Jensen,

We refer to your e-mails dated 20/08/2019 and 11/09//2019 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered under the above-mentioned reference number and to our letter of 11/09/2019.

Your application concerns the following documents:

*– all communication in the form of documents and meetings (agendas, meetings, minutes of meetings) between the DG Transport and Mobility (including the commissioner, members of the Cabinet and any staff) and the company Novozymes on the issues of biofuels, renewable energy and the renewable energy directive since January 1. 2015 until 1. July 2019. "*

We have identified 1 document corresponding to your request. Please find enclosed the document identified.

Having examined the document requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter 'the Regulation 1049/2001'), I have come to the conclusion that it may be partially disclosed.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 145, 31.05.2001, p. 43.

As regards the document, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that some parts of the document have been blanked out as their disclosure is prevented by exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of the Regulation 1049/2001.

Pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation 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 European Union legislation regarding the protection of personal data.

The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter ‘the Regulation 2018/1725’).

The document to which you request access contains personal data, in particular the names, signatures, functions, telephone numbers and/or initials pertaining to staff members of an institution are to be considered personal data.<sup>3</sup>

Indeed, Article 3(1) of Regulation 2018/1725 provides that personal data ‘means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person [...]’.

The Court of Justice has specified that any information, which by reason of its content, purpose or effect, is linked to a particular person is to be considered as personal data.<sup>4</sup>

In its judgment in Case C-28/08 P (*Bavarian Lager*)<sup>5</sup>, the Court of Justice ruled that when a request is made for access to documents containing personal data, the Data Protection Regulation becomes fully applicable<sup>6</sup>.

Pursuant to Article 9(1)(b) of Regulation 2018/1725, ‘personal data shall only be transmitted to recipients established in the Union other than Union institutions and bodies if ‘[t]he recipient establishes that it is necessary to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest and the controller, where there is any reason to assume that the data subject’s legitimate interests might be prejudiced, establishes that it is proportionate to transmit the personal data for that specific purpose after having demonstrably weighed the various competing interests’.

Only if these conditions are fulfilled and the processing constitutes lawful processing in accordance with the requirements of Article 5 of Regulation 2018/1725, can the transmission of personal data occur.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 295 of 21.11.2018, p. 39.

<sup>3</sup> Judgment of the General Court of 19 September 2018 in case T-39/17, *Port de Brest v Commission*, ECLI:EU:T:2018:560, paragraphs 43-44.

<sup>4</sup> Judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union of 20 December 2017 in Case C-434/16, *Peter Nowak v Data Protection Commissioner*, [ECLI:EU:C:2017:994](#), paragraphs 33-35.

<sup>5</sup> Judgment of 29 June 2010 in Case C-28/08 P, *European Commission v The Bavarian Lager Co. Ltd*, EU:C:2010:378, paragraph 59.

<sup>6</sup> Whereas this judgment specifically related to 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, the principles set out therein are also applicable under the new data protection regime established by Regulation 2018/1725.

According to Article 9(1)(b) of Regulation 2018/1725, the European Commission has to examine the further conditions for a lawful processing of personal data only if the first condition is fulfilled, namely if the recipient has established that it is necessary to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest. It is only in this case that the European Commission has to examine whether there is a reason to assume that the data subject's legitimate interests might be prejudiced and, in the affirmative, establish the proportionality of the transmission of the personal data for that specific purpose after having demonstrably weighed the various competing interests.

Notwithstanding the above, please note that there are reasons to assume that the legitimate interests of the data subjects concerned would be prejudiced by disclosure of the personal data reflected in the documents, as there is a real and non-hypothetical risk that such public disclosure would harm their privacy and subject them to unsolicited external contacts.

Consequently, I conclude that, pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation 1049/2001, access cannot be granted to the personal data, as the need to obtain access thereto for a purpose in the public interest has not been substantiated and there is no reason to think that the legitimate interests of the individuals concerned would not be prejudiced by disclosure of the personal data concerned.

As to the signatures, which are biometric data, there is a risk that their disclosure would prejudice the legitimate interests of the persons concerned.

In case you would disagree with the assessment that the redacted data are personal data which can only be disclosed if such disclosure is legitimate under the applicable rules on the protection of personal data, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, to submit 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 Secretariat-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission  
Secretariat-General  
Unit C.1. 'Transparency, Document Management and Access to Documents'  
BERL 7/076  
B-1049 Bruxelles, or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours sincerely,

Claire DEPRE  
Head of Unit

Enclosure:

1. Annex I Briefing for meeting on 25 February 2016