



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The Director-General

Brussels
ECFIN.R.1/RH

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Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM2021/1684

Dear Sir,

We refer to your e-mail of 17 March 2021 addressed to the Secretary-General of the European Commission in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 18 March 2021, under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to the following documents:

A) Evidence of any work or services, of any kind, provided by third-parties (e.g. consultancy firms) to the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, in relation to a) Recovery and Resilience Facility and b) ReactEU. I refer to both paid and pro-bono work and services, concerning any aspects of the abovementioned initiatives.

- Names of the identified third-parties, description of the work or services provided.

B) All correspondence between the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs, or the Commissioner and his Cabinet, and the following parties, concerning

a) NextGenerationEU, b) Recovery and Resilience Facility, and c) ReactEU:

McKinsey & Company; Boston Consulting Group; PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC); Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY); Deloitte; Accenture plc.

As previously stated in exchanges with you, your request was handled in collaboration with SG-RECOVER and resulted in the identification of the documents listed in the annex to this letter, which fall within the scope of your application:

In line with the Commission's internal filing system, DG ECFIN covers documents from 1 to 18 and document 21 and SG-RECOVER covers documents 19 and 20 in reply to your separate request with reference GESTDEM 2021/1680.

1. Documents 1-18 (E-mail exchanges between the Greek Ministry of Digital Governance, PriceWaterhouseCooper (PwC) and DG ECFIN)

Following an examination of the documents, under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, I regret to inform you that your application cannot be granted, as disclosure is prevented by exceptions to the right of access laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001:

a. Article 4(1)(a) - protection of the public interest as regards the financial, monetary or economic policy of the Community or a Member State

The disclosure of the e-mails at this stage of the procedure of the assessment and acceptance of the recovery and resilience plans of the individual Member States would undermine the protection of the public interest as regards the economic policies of Greece.

b. Article 4(3)(1) - disclosure would seriously undermine the decision-making process of the European Commission

The Documents relate to a matter - the assessment and acceptance of the recovery and resilience plans of the individual Member States - where a decision has not been taken by the European Commission. A disclosure at this stage of the procedure would seriously undermine the decision-making process of the European Commission.

c. Third party consultation

Since these documents are third-party documents, co-owned by the Government of Greece and the consultancy PriceWaterhouseCooper (PWC), the Commission has consulted these third parties according to Article 4 (4) and (5) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on 1 June 2021. The Greek authorities have replied on 2 June 2021, asking for non-disclosure of the e-mails. Likewise, PriceWaterhouseCooper (PWC) has objected to the release of their reply, dated 8 June 2021.

We have considered whether partial access could be granted to the above-listed documents. Expunging the confidential information, however, would make the documents meaningless or illegible.

2. Document 21 (IT-study contract with consortium DT4EU, represented by TRASYs International and DELOITTE)

We provide partial access to document 21 expunging the personal data and clauses, which would reveal commercially sensitive data and data protected by intellectual property rights, in accordance with exceptions in Article 4(1)(b) and Article 4(2), first indent, of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 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 – Directorate-General Economic and Financial affairs
Unit R.1 – HR Business Correspondent, data protection and security
CHAR 11/055
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: ECFIN-ACCESS-TO-DOCUMENTS@ec.europa.eu

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)
Maarten Verwey