Hello,

We are writing concerning your request for access to Commission documents registered on 11-07-2024 under case number 2024/3708.

Your application concerns a very large number of documents, which need to be assessed individually. Such a detailed analysis cannot be carried out within the normal time limits set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

The request you have made is extremely broad (both in term of material and temporal scope): the Global Gateway is now an integral part of INTPA external action. The Business Advisory Group is an expert group consisting of 59 members registered under number E03898. The review of all documents requested such as the incoming and outgoing correspondence with this group since 2023 would relate to a very high number of documents and it cannot be done within the normal time limits set out in Article 7 of the Regulation (ED) No. 1049/2001.

In addition, the handling of your request involves also the assessment of documents originating from third parties. The analysis of these documents, together with the need to consult the third parties concerned in accordance with Article 4(4), cannot be expected to be completed within the normal time limits set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

However, Article 6(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 also provides for a possibility to confer with an applicant informally with a view to finding a fair solution when an application relates to a very long document or concerns a very large number of documents.

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

Based on the above-mentioned provision, we would kindly ask you whether you could narrow down the scope of your application (i.e. the subject matter(s) and/or timeframe covered), so as to reduce it to a more manageable amount of documents. We would kindly propose you to instead accept a reply for the request made in EASE on the 11-07-2024 under case number 2024/3710:

- all documentation (including but not limited to all email correspondence, attendance lists, agendas, background papers, transcripts and recordings) AND
- the meeting minutes/notes relating to the meeting between Koen Doens and Brussels Airlines on Global Gateway on 17th April 2024

According to our first estimates, the handling of your request would take at least [65 working days], broken down as follows:

- identification of the documents falling under your request: [15] working days;
- retrieval and establishment of a complete list of the documents identified: [10] working days;
- scanning of the documents: [2] working days;

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2. 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.
assessment of the content of the documents in light of the exceptions of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001: [20] working days;
- final assessment of the documents in light of the comments received: [5] working days;
- drafting of the reply: [1] working days;
- redaction of those parts of the documents to which one or several exceptions apply: [5] working days;
- internal review and approval of the draft decision: [1] working days; and
- preparation of the reply and the documents for dispatch (scanning of the redacted versions, administrative processing etc.): [1] working days.

It follows that, according to our first estimates, a maximum of 2 or 3 documents could possibly be dealt with within the extended deadline of 30 working days counting from the date of registration of your request.

In order to enable us to respect the time-limits of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, please reply to this proposal for a fair solution within five working days at the latest.

In the absence of a reply within five working days, we will restrict the scope of your application to those parts that can be dealt with within the extended deadline of 30 working days.

Kind regards,

E-signed

Jean-Paul Heerschap

Acting Head of Unit INTPA.E3