



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

The Secretary General

Brussels, **23 JAN. 2015**
SG.B4/PSc/ps – sg.dsg2.b.4(2015) 251057

By registered mail to:

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**Decision of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 4 of the
Implementing Rules to Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001¹**

Subject: Confirmatory application for access to documents under Regulation
N° 1049/2001 – Gestdem 2014/6012 and 2014/6042

Dear Mr Harris,

I refer to your letters dated 17 December 2014 (Gestdem 2014/6012) and 19 December 2014 (Gestdem 2014/6042), registered respectively on 19 and 23 December 2014, in which you submit two confirmatory applications for access to documents on the basis of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (Regulation 1049/2001)².

In your initial applications of 12 and 13 December 2014, registered respectively on 12 and 15 December 2014, and addressed to the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid Civil Protection (hereafter: *DG Echo*) and to the Directorate-General for Banking and Finance (hereafter: *DG Fisma*, previously *DG Markt*), you requested access to *documents which contain the following information: [...] details of the department's spending on external consultants for each of the last five financial years (2009-2013).*

You also requested *a breakdown by year of which firms this money was spent with.*

¹ Official Journal L 345 of 29.12.2001, p. 94.

² Official Journal L 145 of 31.5.2001, p.43.

Through their initial replies of 16 and 19 December 2014, both above-mentioned Directorates-General (hereafter: *DGs*) directed you for an answer to your request to the Commission's Financial Transparency System (FTS), where the requested information is already publicly available³.

In your confirmatory application, you request a review of this position, stating, among others, that *[t]he solution proposed does not allow [you] to extract the information required – namely spending on external consultants over the last five years*. You also mention that the FTS does not allow you to know what payments are external consultancy and what are not.

When assessing a confirmatory application for access to documents submitted pursuant to Regulation 1049/2001, the Secretariat-General conducts an independent review of the reply given by the Directorates-General concerned at the initial stage.

Following this independent review, the Commission would like to bring to your attention replies to two Parliamentary questions (E-001369/2013⁴ and P-001899/2014⁵) with a similar subject matter and covering the years 2009 to 2013:

- Annex to Parliamentary question E-001369/2013 covering years 2009 to 2011;
- Annex to Parliamentary question P-001899/2014 covering years 2012 and 2013.

These documents cover that part of your request pertaining to the years 2009 – 2013. I am pleased to inform you that full access is granted to the attached documents. Please find a copy annexed.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Day

Enclosures (2):

- Annex to Parliamentary question E-001369/2013 covering the years 2009 to 2011;
- Annex to Parliamentary question P-001899/2014 covering the years 2012 and 2013.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/budget/fts/index_en.htm

⁴ Official Journal C 355 E of 05.12.2013, p. 153.

⁵ Official Journal C 312 of 12.09.2012, p. 223.