



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

OFFICE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF INDIVIDUAL ENTITLEMENTS

PMO
The Director

02.06.2016

Brussels,
PMO2/ML Ares(2016)

Mr Chris Harris
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**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem
No 2016/1536**

Dear Sir,

We refer to your e-mail dated 25/03/2016 in which you request access to documents, registered on 29/03/2016 under the above-mentioned reference number. You requested:

- the rules governing the use of air taxis or private jets by EU commissioners and if there is a maximum spending ceiling on this area;
- for use of air taxis since November 1, 2014 and for the second Barroso Commission, a breakdown of use including (a) flight origin (b) flight destination (c) budgeted cost of flight and (d) which EU commissioner travelled or the flight was charged to.

We have identified the Code of Conduct of Commissioners (C(2011)2904) and in particular its annex 2, as falling under the scope of your request. This is a document accessible to the public¹. According to its provisions², Commissioners may use any means of transport appropriate for the purposes of the mission based on its cost-effectiveness and taking into account the needs of the Institution.

In practice, the limited use of chartered air transport such as air taxis is only made when scheduling or security constraints do not permit the use of commercial flights. The use of such transport is strictly controlled and authorised directly by the President after careful analysis and consultation of PMO in order to determine the non-viability of standard commercial alternatives.

There is no maximum spending ceiling as such, but the appropriations allocated annually by the Budgetary Authority may not be surpassed.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/3/2011/EN/3-2011-2904-EN-F1-1.Pdf>

² Point 3: "Means of Transport".

With regard to costs incurred, there is no existing document containing the information requested with the requested level of detail and consequently, this part of your application cannot be handled under Regulation 1049/2001.

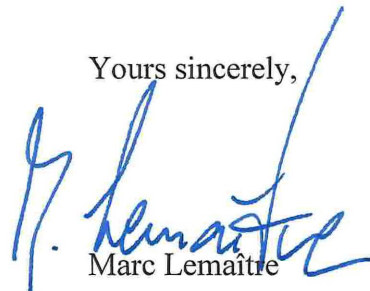
In case you would disagree with the above assessment, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, to introduce a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

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-B4
BERL 5/340
B-1049 Bruxelles
or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu.

In your application, you also ask how much has been spent on air taxis/private jets since the start of the Juncker Commission (November 1, 2014) and for the second Barroso Commission.

In the interest of transparency, and under the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour, please find enclosed, for your information, a table setting out, for the periods requested, the overall sums spent on air taxis. As this table did not exist yet at the time of your application, it was created specifically to answer your request for information³. Therefore, this information does not fall under Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to Parliament, Council and Commission documents.

Yours sincerely,

Marc Lemaître

Copy: HR ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Encl.: 1 - Overall spending on air taxis for the *Barroso II* and *Juncker* Commissions

³ Replies Ref. Ares(2016)1866965 - 20/04/2016 and Ref. Ares(2016)2194048 - 11/05/2016