



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY

The Director General

Brussels,
REGIO DGA2.01/AW/cbd

Subject: Your application for access to documents Ref GestDem No 2016/2571

Dear Mr Harris

I refer to your e-mail of 3 May 2016 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 10 May 2016 under the above mentioned reference number.

You requested access to information on the Task Force for Better Implementation which the European Commission set up in late 2014 to look into low absorption rates of EU fund by certain Member States. You ask the Commission to provide you with a copy of the report of each country-by-country analysis referred to under the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/task-force-better-implementation/. You are in particular interested in the following Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Indeed, the Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Crețu took the initiative to tackle the problem of inadequate implementation in a flexible way, creating the Task Force for Better Implementation. The work covered the programmes most at risk in the following countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. The assessment of the situation and possible actions to undertake were discussed in a number of meetings both internally and with the Member States and programme authorities concerned. These exchanges lead to agreeing actions which would enhance implementation of the concerned 2007-2013 programmes. Their implementation was closely monitored.

The assessment of the situation regarding the programmes at risk were however not formalised in form of a report. This assessment was considered only an intermediary step leading to agreeing the actions to be taken by the programme authorities. Neither the Commission nor the national authorities had the intention of summarising in an extensive report the considerations that led to the measures undertaken in the course of 2015.

Therefore, the Commission is not in a possession of the document you request to receive and hence cannot satisfy your request.

Mr Chris Harris
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69002, Lyon
France

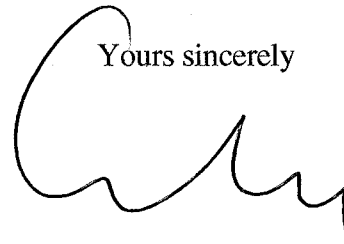
In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

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
Secretary-General
Transparency unit SG-B-4
BERL 5/282
1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by several loops and a final vertical stroke.

Walter Deffaa