



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels, 14 JUN 2013  
DG/JP/K.2/VA D(2013) 1760968

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2361/2013**

Further to our letter of 29/05/2013 that concerned the documents of the Cabinet Ciolos, I would like to inform you that the treatment of your application has been completed by the Services of the Commission.

Your application concerns documents (briefings, notes, emails) linked with the proposal of the Commission to amend Council Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey. The Commission is currently discussing this proposal with the Council and the European Parliament.

We have identified 6 documents related to your request of which a list is attached. Having examined 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 an exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 (3) of this Regulation.

The documents which you seek to obtain relate to a decision to amend the Directive relating to honey which has not yet been taken.

The disclosure of the documents requested would undermine the protection of the institution's decision-making process, as it would reveal preliminary views and policy options which are currently under consideration. The Commission's services must be free from external pressure to explore all possible options regarding the amendment of this Directive.

We have considered whether partial access could be granted to the documents requested, but it is not possible, because they are entirely covered by the exception.

Therefore and since there is no overriding public interest to disclose these documents, the exception laid down in Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 applies.

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

Mr David Sánchez  
ask+request-493-29e9c0b7@asktheeu.org

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-5  
BERL 5/327  
B-1049 Bruxelles

or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours faithfully,



Jerzy PLEWA

Encl: List of identified documents