



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION

The Director-General

Brussels, 8 02. 2018  
Taxud E2/SVDV – taxud.e.2(2018)825466

Mr Pascoe Sabido  
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*(by e-mail and registered mail)*

Dear Mr Sabido,

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2018/484**

I acknowledge receipt of your e-mail dated 22 January 2018 registered on 23 January 2018 under the above mentioned reference number in which you make a request for access to documents as follows:

*"- a list of all lobby meetings held by DG TAXUD, since 24 June 2016 on Brexit and the article 50 negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU. The list should include: date, Commission attendees, the name of the organisation(s) attending, and a more precise topic if that exists.*

*- minutes of all lobby meetings held by DG TAXUD, since 24 June 2016 on Brexit and the article 50 negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU.*

*- any correspondence with lobbyists held by DG TAXUD, since 24 June 2016 on Brexit and the article 50 negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU".*

Please find enclosed a list of the meetings related to Brexit held by the officials of DG TAXUD since 24 June 2016 until present. As requested, the list includes the date, the name of the organisation and the topic of the meeting. However, pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 related to the protection of personal data, the personal names of Commission attendees could not be included.

Date of meeting	Organisation	Topic
23 June 2017	European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC)	Brexit: impact of reintroducing duty and tax free sales

With reference to your request for all minutes and any correspondence with lobbyists, I regret to inform you that your application cannot be granted, as disclosure is prevented by exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4 (2) first indent of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. These documents include opinions and evidence raised by third parties, which represent knowhow and commercial data of the organisations.

Disclosure of the requested documents would undermine the protection of the purpose of investigations in accordance with the first indent of Article 4, paragraph 2 of Regulation 1049/2001 which states that *"the institutions shall refuse access to a document where disclosure would undermine the protection of ... commercial interests of a natural or legal person, including intellectual property"*.

In addition, the documents contain the names of individuals, which are protected by Union legislation regarding the protection of personal data. The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

We have considered whether partial access could be granted to the document requested. However, partial access is not possible given the fact that this document is entirely covered by the exception under Regulation 1049/2001 mentioned above.


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  
B-1049 Brussels

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

Yours faithfully,

  
Stephen Quest