



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID
OPERATIONS (ECHO)

General Affairs
Contracts and Finance

Ref. D

Brussels
ECHO.E.3/JS

13. 03. 2020

***By registered letter with
acknowledgment of receipt***

Mr Teffer Peter
Ekko Voorkamer Bemuurde Weerd
WZ 3
3513 BH Utrecht
The Netherlands

e-mail: ask+request-7662-
7ea09366@asktheeu.org

Subject: Your application for access to documents – Ref GestDem No 2020/0860

Dear Mr. Teffer,

We refer to your e-mail dated 12/02/2020 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 13/02/2020 under the above mentioned reference number.

In a letter registered as Ref. Ares(2020)939183 Secretariat General (SG) informed you that the request has been divided into six parts (registered separately as GestDem 2020/0856, 2020/0858, 2020/0859, 2020/0860, 2020/0861 and 2020/0862.). The reply at hand relates only to the documents held by DG for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), registered as Gestdem 2020/0860. You will receive the replies from the other respective Directorates-General in due course.

Your request concerns documents related to the Commission cabinet member of Commissioner Janez Lenarčič with EUROGAS asbl on 29/01/2020. We identified the following documents which fall under the scope of your request:

1. Eurogas letter – Meeting request to discuss the role of gas in the energy transition and the Green Deal – addressed to Commissioner Lenarčič, dated 11/12/2019. Ares(2019)7688439
2. email to Eurogas, offering a meeting with the Deputy Head of Cabinet, dated 20/12/2019.

3. email by the Deputy Head of Cabinet to debrief the meeting with Eurogas representatives on European Green Deal, dated 29/01/2020
4. email follow up to the meeting by Eurogas to the Deputy Head of Cabinet, dated 06/02/2019 Ares(2020)787127
5. email by Eurogas with one attachment (Support for a Clean Hydrogen Strategy), dated 03/02/2020

With regard to the all requested documents listed above, a complete disclosure of the identified documents is prevented by the exception concerning the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual outlined in Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹, because they contain the following personal data:

- the names/initials and contact information of Commission staff members not pertaining to the senior management;
- the names/initials and contact details of other natural persons;
- handwritten signatures/abbreviated signatures of natural persons;
- other information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person.

Pursuant to Article 4(1)b of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001, access to a document has to be refused if its disclosure would undermine the protection of privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with European Union legislation regarding the protection of personal data. The applicable legislation in this field is Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC ('Regulation 2018/1725').

Indeed, Article 3(1) of Regulation 2018/1725 provides that personal data '*means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person [...]'*. The Court of Justice has specified that any information, which by reason of its content, purpose or effect, is linked to a particular person is to be considered as personal data. Please note in this respect that the names, signatures, functions, telephone numbers and/or initials pertaining to staff members of an institution are to be considered personal data. In its judgment in Case C-28/08 P (Bavarian Lager), the Court of Justice ruled that when a request is made for access to documents containing personal data, the Data Protection Regulation becomes fully applicable.

Pursuant to Article 9(1)(b) of Regulation 2018/1725, '*personal data shall only be transmitted to recipients established in the Union other than Union institutions and bodies if '[t]he recipient establishes that it is necessary to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest and the controller, where there is any reason to assume that the data subject's legitimate interests might be prejudiced, establishes that it is proportionate to transmit the personal data for that specific purpose after having demonstrably weighed the various competing interests'*'.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39.

Only if these conditions are fulfilled and the processing constitutes lawful processing in accordance with the requirements of Article 5 of Regulation 2018/1725, can the transmission of personal data occur.

According to Article 9(1)(b) of Regulation 2018/1725, the European Commission has to examine the further conditions for a lawful processing of personal data only if the first condition is fulfilled, namely if the recipient has established that it is necessary to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest. It is only in this case that the European Commission has to examine whether there is a reason to assume that the data subject's legitimate interests might be prejudiced and, in the affirmative, establish the proportionality of the transmission of the personal data for that specific purpose after having demonstrably weighed the various competing interests. In your request, you do not put forward any arguments to establish the necessity to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest. Therefore, the European Commission does not have to examine whether there is a reason to assume that the data subject's legitimate interests might be prejudiced.

Notwithstanding the above, please note that there are reasons to assume that the legitimate interests of the data subjects concerned would be prejudiced by disclosure of the personal data reflected in the documents, as there is a real and non-hypothetical risk that such public disclosure would harm their privacy.

Consequently, I conclude that, pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access cannot be granted to the personal data, as the need to obtain access thereto for a purpose in the public interest has not been substantiated and there is no reason to think that the legitimate interests of the individuals concerned would not be prejudiced by disclosure of the personal data concerned.

As to the blue ink signatures on one document and one attachment to a document, which are biometric data, there is a risk that their disclosure would prejudice the legitimate interests of the persons concerned.

Therefore, parts of the documents containing personal data were redacted as they fall under the exception of protection of privacy and integrity of an individual as foreseen by Article 4(1)b of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001.

Moreover, please note that these documents were drawn up for internal use under the responsibility of the relevant officials of the DG for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. It solely reflects the author's interpretation of the interventions made and does not set out any official position of the third parties to which the document refers, which was not consulted on its content. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

Furthermore, three of the documents stem from third parties (Eurogas). With regard to these documents, the Commission consulted their author on the disclosure pursuant to Article 4(4) of Regulation 1049/2001. The author agreed to their disclosure. Please find attached the redacted documents. Please note that these documents do not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such. Please further note that these documents were received by the Commission from Eurogas. It is disclosed for information only and cannot be re-used without the agreement of the originator, who holds a copyright on it. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

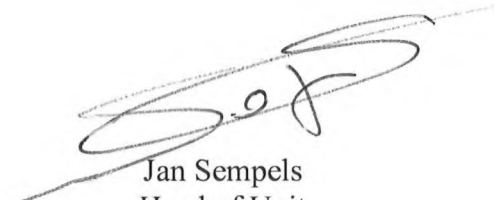
In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

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, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)
BERL 7/076
B-1049 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,



Jan Sempels
Head of Unit

Mr. Janez Lenarčič
Commissioner
European Commission
Berlaymont
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 9 December 2019

Subject: Meeting request to discuss the role of gas in the energy transition and the Green Deal

Dear Commissioner Lenarčič,

We would like to congratulate you for your appointment and provide you with our views on the energy transition and the Green Deal for Europe.

Eurogas supports calls for a European Climate Law that enshrines the 2050 climate-neutrality ambition into law, and we believe the gas industry will be a critical contributor to achieve this objective. The EU will require a legislative framework that enables all decarbonisation options to be part of the solution. All options, including natural gas, renewable gas and decarbonised gas in combination with carbon capture will be needed to enable a successful energy transition, while reducing overall societal costs. We therefore encourage the European Commission to put forward a decarbonisation strategy that ensures a steady uptake of renewable and decarbonised gases.

Eurogas supports the recently agreed EU climate and energy objectives for 2030. It is essential from an investor perspective that the stability and predictability of EU policy making is preserved. Increased 2030 targets must therefore not lead to a reduction in the speed of implementation of the Clean Energy Package, while being accompanied by additional and complementary measures that would enable additional greenhouse gas emission reductions. In parallel, the Energy Union objectives of energy security, affordability and sustainability must also be observed. Switching from coal and oil to gas in power generation offers the fastest and the most cost-effective solution for the EU to accelerate the decarbonisation of the EU economy. It enables the EU to exceed its current 2030 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by delivering a 45% reduction in CO₂ emissions. Additional greenhouse gas emission reductions can be achieved by the widespread uptake of LNG in heavy duty road transport and maritime transport.

Eurogas therefore supports a robust EU ETS that provides appropriate market-based price signals to drive sustainable investment decisions. The current ETS is already a driving force in coal to gas switching, beyond individual national commitments to phase out coal. In parallel, Eurogas supports efforts to manage and reduce methane emissions from the gas sector, including through improved reporting and quantification methods as well as mitigation practices.

Finally, we are convinced that the energy transition is not only a challenge, but also offers significant opportunities for innovative European businesses. Europe is leading the way when it comes to climate change mitigation policies. Moving faster than the rest of the world



requires establishing a level playing field to ensure that EU industry can continue to grow and prosper. Europe can become and, in many areas, already is leading the development of decarbonisation technologies, we lead in the manufacturing of power to gas electrolyzers, anaerobic digestors, LNG engines and carbon capture technologies like pyrolysis. The EU should take advantage of the potential in decarbonising gas to lead the technologies of the energy transition not only in R&D but also in manufacturing. Turning climate change mitigation into an opportunity for innovative EU businesses and effectively addressing the risk of carbon-leakage should be the core of an EU industrial decarbonisation strategy.

We look forward to the opportunity to present to you our vision on the role of gas – natural, renewable and decarbonised – in the energy transition and to discuss our detailed policy recommendations with you at your earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted signature block]

[REDACTED] (ECHO)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: mercredi 29 janvier 2020 18:21
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Debrief - Meeting NP with Eurogas representatives on European Green Deal

Today I met with three representatives of Eurogas: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

They came to explain their position on the European Green Deal and the role of natural gas in the transition towards climate neutrality.

Eurogas regret that investment in gas is excluded from funding in the Commission's proposal for the Just Transition Fund, not so much because of the lost opportunity from the financing perspective, but because of the signal it sends about the role of gas in the transition towards climate neutrality. They assert that the modelling shows that in many parts of Europe the shift from coal to gas will be a necessary step to get there. Whereas this had been largely integrated and accepted as part of the climate narrative until recently, they say that the Green Deal has launched a new discussion on the role of gas and it is now being called into question: on the one hand, by certain EU Member States as a justification for sticking with coal until they can leap-frog towards alternative energy sources; on the other, by other non-EU big CO2 emitters [and, presumably, to gas exporting countries].

As regards energy in the geopolitical Commission, they pointed out that today, Europe has much more choice in terms of where it gets its gas. For a long time we were dependent on USSR/Russia, but this is no longer the case thanks to LNG. In this sense, it is important also from the security of (energy) supply perspective.

They also used the occasion to mention the work they are doing to make gas greener, including on biogas, clean hydrogen and carbon capture and storage. I asked a bit more about hydrogen. The problem is apparently that to make truly green hydrogen you also need truly green electricity, and the two combined make it far too expensive to be competitive. Producing hydrogen with methane, on the other hand, is less expensive but emits CO2. The solution here is carbon capture and storage. The industry is now re-investing in CCS technology. Total has a project in Norway which should demonstrate results, but publicly funded pilot projects are needed to test other options for combining different technologies.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cabinet of Janez Lenarčič, European Commissioner for Crisis Management
European Commission
B-1046 Brussels, Belgium



[REDACTED] (ECHO)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: vendredi 20 décembre 2019 10:22
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting request to discuss the role of gas in the energy transition and the Green Deal | 29.01.2020 | 11.00

Dear [REDACTED],

On behalf of Commissioner Lenarčič, I thank you for your email and meeting request with [REDACTED].

Unfortunately, Commissioner will not be available at this date and he asked [REDACTED] Deputy Head of Cabinet, to meet with [REDACTED].

Should this proposition suit [REDACTED], the meeting could take place on Wednesday 29 January at 11.00.

I thank you in advance for your reply and I wish you all the best for 2020!

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Deputy Head of Cabinet


European Commission
Cabinet of Commissioner Janez Lenarčič
Crisis Management
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 12:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting request to discuss the role of gas in the energy transition and the Green Deal

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you on behalf of [REDACTED] Eurogas, the representative association of the European gas industry, to request a meeting to discuss the Green Deal and the role of gas in Europe's energy mix going forward. Eurogas supports the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the European Commission's long-term vision of a climate neutral economy by 2050.

[REDACTED], [REDACTED] Eurogas and [REDACTED] Total, will be in Brussels on 29 January. We would very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss the role of gas in the energy transition, and to present our proposals for delivering a carbon neutral economy utilising gas to its full potential.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Av. de Cortenbergh, 172

B-1000 Brussels

www.eurogas.org

EU Transparency Register: 17909506129-41

Eurogas is part of GasNaturally



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[REDACTED] (ECHO)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: jeudi 6 février 2020 15:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Eurogas Meeting Follow Up

Dear [REDACTED],

It was a pleasure to meet you last week, thank you for spending time with us to discuss the role of gas in the EU energy transition. It was reassuring to hear your views on the necessary role of gas in the coming decade, as you know we see gas as a means to reduce CO2 emissions and provide affordable energy for the people of the EU. As we discussed we strongly believe that the message that gas is not eligible in the Just Transition Fund impacts not only the willingness of EU member states to move beyond coal, it also sends a message to the world that gas is not part of the solution. This is increasingly worrying as the investments in coal power across the world are beginning to grow and this is dangerous for the world and our global climate ambitions. It is important that the European Commission continues to recognise the role that gas will play in achieving our carbon reduction targets for 2030 and beyond.

We noted the strong interest of yourself and the Commissioner in hydrogen and [REDACTED] will send you further information on EU developments of hydrogen projects very shortly. Hydrogen offers an industrial opportunity of gas for Europe. The EU leads in the development and manufacturing of gas technologies – turbines, LNG engines, electrolyzers, anaerobic digestors and CCS equipment. The industrial strategy of the EU should look to build these sectors as a strong manufacturing element of the energy transition and provide jobs and technology leadership here in the EU. Exporting these gas technologies to our partners around the world will make a huge difference to their viability and competitiveness, while helping them to decarbonise and support stable and secure nation building. In this regard we also reiterate our view that any hydrogen initiative in the EU should be a 'clean' hydrogen initiative, rather than one that focuses only on hydrogen produced from renewable electricity.

We look forward to continuing to exchange views with you over the coming five years and look forward to working with you to deliver the potential of gas as a climate mitigation tool and as a provider of jobs and growth for Europe and the world in the coming decade.

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (ECHO)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: lundi 3 février 2020 15:42
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Clean Hydrogen Strategy
Attachments: 201.010 - Clean Hydrogen Strategy.pdf

Dear Commissioner Lenarčič,

I am writing to you on behalf of [REDACTED] Eurogas, the representative association of the European gas industry, to highlight the importance we attach to discussions on a forthcoming hydrogen initiative.

Eurogas believes that the focus of a hydrogen initiative should be on all forms of renewable and decarbonised hydrogen in combination with CCS. Such a 'Clean Hydrogen Strategy' is a great opportunity to signal Europe's commitment to developing decarbonised gas, as a necessary fuel for a competitive industrial sector. It should also provide an opportunity to develop our own innovative manufacturing base in the technologies to decarbonise gas and the wider economy, including: hydrogen ready turbines, engines, heating appliances, fuel cells and electrolyzers. Furthermore, as the IPCC report underlines, CCS is a central technology in achieving our climate ambitions and one that can facilitate the production of large volumes of decarbonised hydrogen from natural gas, if we quickly scale it up.

We would therefore urge you to ensure that any hydrogen initiative covers all forms of decarbonised hydrogen, not only hydrogen produced from renewable electricity.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We have moved, meet us at
rue d'Arlon 80, 1040 Brussels



Rue d'Arlon 80
B-1040 Brussels
www.eurogas.org
EU Transparency Register: 17909506129-41

College of Commissioners,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels

Our reference
20L010

3 February 2020

Dear President,
Dear Commissioner

SUPPORT FOR A CLEAN HYDROGEN STRATEGY

Eurogas fully subscribes to the importance of achieving a carbon neutral EU economy by 2050 in order to limit the worst effects of climate change and to demonstrate strong global climate leadership. The proposed Green Deal is a strong mechanism to build the framework that will be required to drive investments into the technologies that we need to achieve our climate objectives. We believe that the current discussion surrounding the Green Deal, including the development of an Industrial Strategy and a Hydrogen Initiative for Europe should include a focus on all forms of decarbonised and renewable hydrogen.

In this regard it is vital that finance and regulatory support is provided for the most necessary and promising technologies to deliver our climate neutrality ambition. Eurogas recognises that gaseous fuels will also need to undertake a decarbonisation pathway to contribute to climate neutrality in 2050. Therefore, we fully support a strong focus on the development and production of all gaseous fuels that deliver this target.

Considering commendable initiatives such as the battery alliance, aimed at developing strong value chains within the European Union, we strongly support a similar approach for Hydrogen. This should cover all forms of renewable and decarbonised hydrogen. The development of a hydrogen strategy is a great opportunity to signal Europe's commitment to developing decarbonised gas, as a necessary fuel for a competitive industrial sector.

It should also provide an opportunity to develop our own innovative manufacturing base in the technologies to decarbonise gas and the wider economy, including: hydrogen ready turbines, engines, heating appliances, fuel cells and electrolyzers. Europe leads in the production of these technologies today and with a smart hydrogen strategy that knowledge and know how can be translated into potentially millions of jobs and a thriving European industrial base exporting technology to the world.

From a scientific point of view the IPCC recognises that if we stand any chance to reach our ambition of keeping global warming to 1,5C we must deploy carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the coming years. CCS is a technology that can produce large volumes of decarbonised hydrogen from natural gas, if we quickly scale it up. Thus, the focus of the hydrogen strategy should be on all forms of renewable and decarbonised hydrogen.

We would therefore urge you to ensure that any hydrogen initiative covers all forms of decarbonised hydrogen, not only hydrogen produced from renewable electricity.

Yours Sincerely,

