



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
The Director-General

Brussels
JRC/SQ/ARES(2021)

Sent via e-mail only to¹

Ms Carlotta Indiano
ask+request-10165-c39e9e85@asktheeu.org

**Subject: Subject: Your applications for access to documents GestDem
2021/5968, 2021/6454, 2021/6457, 2021/6543**

Dear Ms Indiano,

We refer to your applications dated 7, 28 and 29 October 2021, respectively registered on 8 and 29 October, and on 3 November 2021 under the above-mentioned reference numbers.

Your requests

Your first request concerns *"Since 01/10/2017 to date a list of all lobby and industry meetings and/or calls, including any Cabinet Members and/or officials, during which "hydrogen vehicles" and/or "electric vehicles" and/or "batteries" and/or "hydrogen" were discussed. The list should include: date, individuals attending and organisational affiliation, as well as the issues discussed;*

- *minutes of these meetings and calls;*
- *documents prepared for the purpose of the meetings issued both in preparation and after the meetings.*
- *correspondence between any Cabinet Members and/or officials, and any lobby group and/or industry representative discussing "hydrogen vehicles" and/or "electric vehicles" and/or "batteries" and/or "hydrogen".*

You sent on 11 October 2021 two requests with the same content but identifying respectively the European Battery Alliance and the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association. After contacting you on 13 October to clarify those two requests, we explained on 15 October that the two organisms were already in the scope of your request GestDem 2021/5698.

¹ According to standard operational procedure, the reply is usually also sent to you by registered post. Please note, however, that due to the extraordinary health and security measures currently in force during to the COVID-19 epidemics, which includes the requirement for all Commission non-critical staff to telework, we are unfortunately not in a position to follow this procedure until further notice. We would therefore appreciate if you could confirm receipt of the present e-mail.

On 28 October 2021, you sent two new requests with a similar content but aiming at contacts with Vulcan Energie Ressourcen and Stellantis, respectively registered under the reference GestDem 2021/6454 and GestDem 2021/6457. The requests concern²: *A list of the meeting and/or calls between (the Vulcan Energie Ressourcen/Stellantis) and the Joint Research Centre, including any Cabinet Members and/or officials, during which “batteries” and/or “hydrogen” and/or “lithium” were discussed. The list should include: date, individuals attending and organisational affiliation, as well as the issues discussed;*

- *all minutes and other reports of these meetings and/or calls;*
- *all documents prepared for the purpose of the meetings issued both in preparation and after the meetings took place.*
- *all correspondence, including attachments (i.e. any emails, mail correspondence or telephone call notes) between the Joint Research Centre and (the Vulcan Energie Ressourcen/Stellantis), including any Cabinet Members and/or officials, and any lobby group and/or industry representative discussing “batteries” and/or “hydrogen” and/or “lithium”.*

You sent finally on 29 October 2021 a final request registered under the reference GestDem 2021/6543: *“For the period between 1 January 2018 to date: - a list of the meeting and/or calls between Solvay SA and the Joint Research Centre, including any Cabinet Members and/or officials, during which “electric vehicles ” and/or “batteries” were discussed. The list should include: date, individuals attending and organisational affiliation, as well as the issues discussed;*

- *all minutes and other reports of these meetings and/or calls;*
- *all documents prepared for the purpose of the meetings issued both in preparation and after the meetings took place.*
- *all correspondence, including attachments (i.e. any emails, mail correspondence or telephone call notes) between the Joint Research Centre and Solvay SA, including any Cabinet Members and/or officials, and any lobby group and/or industry representative discussing “electric vehicles ” and/or “batteries”.*

Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

The JRC identified two documents under your request 2021/5968, relating to two meetings held with the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU).³

This organism has been set up under Article 187 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union providing for the possibility to set up joint undertakings for the efficient execution of the Union research programmes, first by Council Regulation No 521/2008 and today by Regulation (EU) No 559/2014⁴. The FCH JU explores the potential of hydrogen as an energy carrier in a public-private partnership reuniting the European Commission, the industry, through Hydrogen Europe, and the research organisations through Research Grouping NERGHY.

I invite you to consult the JRC’s publications to get additional information on the collaboration between the JRC and the FCH JU:

https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/search/site/fch%20ju?f%5B0%5D=im_field_research_areas%3A2208

We contacted you on 27 October 2021 to ask if you were interested in meeting with this organism, which cannot be described as a lobby nor as an industry, but which has the industry as one of its three constituting members. You answered positively on the same day.

² 2021/6454: for the period between 1 of September 2021 to date; 2021/6457: For the period between 1 February 2021 to date.

³ <https://www.fch.europa.eu/>

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_169_R_0007&from=FR

Documents identified

The two following documents fall therefore under the scope of your request GestDem 2021/5968:

- Document 1: Briefing for the introductory meeting of 3 July 2020 between the FCH JU and the Director General of the JRC, registered under the reference BASIS JRC/1229;
- Document 2: Mission report with a meeting with the FCH JU on 11 October 2017, registered under the reference Ares(2021)7403337.

Document 1 is fully disclosed.

With regard to the document 2, some parts have been blanked out as they either do not fall within the scope of your request or they contain personal data. Indeed, disclosure of names of Commission staff members not pertaining to the senior management 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 1049/2001. The motivation of the deletions is mentioned in the disclosed document.

Additionally, we regret to inform you that the JRC does not hold any documents under your other requests.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 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 Secretariat-General of the Commission at the following address:

European Commission
Secretariat-General
Transparency, Document Management and Access to Documents (SG.C.1)
BERL 7/076
B-1049 Brussels

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

E-signed
Stephen QUEST

Enclosures: 2 documents disclosed