



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate E - Citizens, Health, Migration & Security Union  
**The Director**

Brussels,  
SG.E/WS

*Mr A. Glioti*  
*BY EMAIL: [REQUEST-11768-  
FE40DA17@ASKTHEEU.ORG](mailto:REQUEST-11768-FE40DA17@ASKTHEEU.ORG)*

Dear Mr Glioti,

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2022/4793**

We refer to your email of 24 August 2022 in which you make a request for access to documents.

You request access to documents concerning meetings between representatives of the Commission and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), which may include ‘all correspondence (including emails and WhatsApp messages) between the European Commission and ICMPD since 2/3/2016’. You also request minutes and other records of meetings between Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas and his Deputy Head of Cabinet Natasha Bertaud and ICMPD on 22 April 2020, 6 October 2020, 6 September 2021 and 4 May 2022.

Please note that due to the wide scope of your request, covering also areas falling under the responsibility of other Directorates-General, your initial request has been split into several further applications, with the following references:

- 2022/4833 dealt by DG CNECT
- 2022/4794 dealt by DG HOME
- 2022/4798 dealt by DG BUDG
- 2022/4830 dealt by DG NEAR
- 2022/4797 dealt by INTPA

These requests will be handled separately. This reply relates only to the documents held by the Secretariat-General. You will receive the replies from the other respective Directorates-General in due course.

The part of your request for access to documents that falls under the responsibility of the Secretariat-General was registered on 25 August 2022 with the following number: GESTDEM 2022/4793.

The Secretariat-General has carried out a thorough search for the documents requested. We have identified the following documents that fall under the scope of your application:

- Documents concerning meeting of 4 May 2022 of Vice-President Margaritis Schinas and Natasha Bertaud with ICMPD:
  - Email of 2 May 2022 from ICMPD (Ares(2022) 6244991) containing:
    - Concept note ‘Restart Ukraine: Labour market participation through effective skills assessment, job matching and entrepreneurship’
    - Concept note ‘Resilience, Reinforcement and Recovery of Ukrainian Border Management, Customs, Migration and Consular Services’
  - Email related to the meeting of 4 May 2022, Ares(2022)6250340
- Documents concerning meeting of 6 September 2021 of Vice-President Margaritis Schinas and Natasha Bertaud with ICMPD:
  - ‘Invitation to headline ICMPD's Vienna Migration Conference 2021’, Ares(2021)5420594
  - Concept note ‘Vienna Migration Conference 2021: Reimagining migration partnerships: Challenges, opportunities and strategies’, Ares(2021)5420594
- Documents concerning event of 6 October 2020 hosted by ICMPD with participation of Vice-President Schinas:
  - ‘Breaking the gridlock: A new Pact for EU migration policy’, ICMPD webinar with Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas, Ares(2020)2564873
- Documents concerning meeting of 22 April 2020 of Vice-President Margaritis Schinas and Natasha Bertaud with ICMPD:
  - ‘Meeting request – Director General ICMPD, Dr. Michael Spindelegger’, Ares(2019)7629793
  - Policy paper ‘Breaking gridlocks and moving forward: Recommendations for the next five years of EU migration policy’, Ares(2019)7629793

As well as:

- Email related to the meetings of 22 April 2020, 6 October 2020, 6 September 2021: ‘VP Schinas meeting with ICMPD DG Spindelegger’, Ares(2022)4312730

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, we have come to the conclusion that document Ares(2022)6250340 may be partially disclosed. Some parts of the document have been blanked out as their disclosure is prevented by the exceptions to the right of access laid down in Article 4(1)(a). With regard to this document, a complete disclosure is prevented by the exception regarding international relations. The redacted parts of the document contain:

- sensitive information with regard to relations with third countries on migration.

Disclosure of these parts would undermine ongoing discussions between the EU and the third countries in question.

With regard to documents Ares(2022)6244991, Ares(2021)5420594, Ares(2020)2564873, Ares(2019)7629793 and Ares(2022)4312730, as well as

Ares(2022)6250340, a complete disclosure 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, 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.

Article 9(1)(b) of the Data Protection Regulation does not allow the transmission of these personal data, except if you have established that it is necessary to have the data transmitted to you for a specific purpose in the public interest and where there is no reason to assume that the legitimate interests of the data subject might be prejudiced. In your request, you do not express any particular interest to have access to these personal data nor do you put forward arguments to establish the necessity to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest.

Consequently, pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, I conclude that access is not granted to the personal data contained in the requested documents, 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.

Should you disagree with this position, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, to submit 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  
Unit C.1. 'Transparency, Document Management and Access to Documents'  
BERL 7/076  
B-1049 Brussels, or by email to: [sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sg-acc-doc@ec.europa.eu)

Yours sincerely,

William SLEATH

Enclosure: Documents Ares(2022)6250340, Ares(2022)6244991,  
Ares(2021)5420594, Ares(2020)2564873, Ares(2019)7629793 and  
Ares(2022)4312730