



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

The Director-General

Brussels, 22/03/2023  
MP ener.a.1(2023)2744011

Mr Barnaby Pace  
Global Witness, c/o WeWork  
Rue de Commerce 31 /  
Handelsstraat 31  
1000 Brussels

By email: [ask+request-12508-7f9c7208@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-12508-7f9c7208@asktheeu.org)

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – EASE 2023/0709**

Dear Mr Pace,

We refer to your e-mail of 28 January 2023 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 2 February 2023 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to *all documents—including but not limited to correspondence, emails, minutes, notes (hand written or electronic), audio or video recordings, verbatim reports, operational conclusions, lines to take, briefings, and presentations—related to the meeting on January 19 between Stefano Grassi and Tatiana Marquez Uriarte and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie.*

Your application concerns the following documents:

Nr.	Stakeholder	Ares	Date	Title
1	Gasunie	Ares(2022)8817628	19/12/2022	Meeting Request
2	Gasunie	Ares(2023)134198	09/10/2022	Positive reply to meeting request
3	Gasunie	Ares(2023)423793	19/01/2023	Minutes of the meeting
4	Gasunie	Ares(2023)534391	17/01/2023	Reply to speaking invitation at CCUS event Rotterdam, 24/01/2023

5	Gasunie	Ares(2023)1308315	18/01/2023	Briefing – meeting SG with Gasunie – 19/01/2023
---	---------	-------------------	------------	---

Having examined the documents requested under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to documents, I have come to the conclusion that the documents listed above may be partially disclosed.

First, 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 1049/2001, 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 prove 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 any arguments to establish the necessity to have the data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest.

Consequently, I conclude that, pursuant to Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, access cannot be 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.

Access is granted to minutes of a meeting with external parties (document n.3). This document was drawn up for internal use under the responsibility of the relevant service. It solely reflects the service's interpretation of the interventions made and does not set out any official position of the third parties to which the document refers. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

In addition, some parts of document n. 3 have been blanked out as their disclosure is prevented by the exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4(2), first indent, of this Regulation.

The redacted parts of document n.3 contain commercially sensitive business information of the company that submitted it.

Disclosure of these parts would undermine the protection of commercial interests protected under this exception.

Moreover, some parts of document n. 5 have been blanked out as their disclosure is prevented by the exceptions to the right of access laid down in Article 4(1), third indent, Article 4(2), first indent, and Article 4(3), first subparagraph, of this Regulation.

The redacted parts of the document contain information of non-public and sensitive character for the EU's international relations, commercially sensitive business information of the company that submitted it, which are not publicly available, and non-public

information about the EU institutions' on-going decision-making processes regarding the Commission proposal for a Hydrogen and Gas Decarbonisation package as well as the proposed creation of a European Hydrogen Bank.

Disclosure of these parts would undermine the protection of commercial interests of a natural or legal person, including intellectual property, international relations and the institutions' decision-making process, protected under the above-mentioned exceptions.

The exceptions laid down in Article 4(2) and in Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 apply unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure of the documents. I have examined whether there could be an overriding public interest in disclosure, but that I have not been able to identify such an interest.

In addition, please note that documents originating from third parties, which have been consulted, are disclosed to you based on Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. However, this disclosure is without prejudice to the rules on intellectual property, which may limit your right to reproduce or exploit the released documents without the agreement of the originator, who may hold an intellectual property right on them. The European Commission does not assume any responsibility from their reuse.

Please find enclosed redacted copies of the documents that can be published.

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 to the Secretariat-General of the Commission within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter. You can submit it in one of the following ways:

**by asking for a review via your portal<sup>1</sup> account** (available only for initial requests submitted via the portal account),

**or by mail:**

European Commission

Secretariat-General

Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)  
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,

Ditte Juul Jørgensen

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request>