



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate A - Green Economy  
ENV.A.3 - Chemicals

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

Mr Vincent Harmsen  
Pieter Schroonsstraat 58  
1830 Machelen  
Belgium

***Advance copy by email:***  
[ask+request-2686-e95811ec@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-2686-e95811ec@asktheeu.org)

Dear Sir,

**Subject: Your application for access to documents - Ref GestDem No 2016 - 1768**

I refer to your e-mail dated 12/03/2016, registered under the above mentioned reference number and the reply from Secretariat General Ares(2016) 1701373 of 11/04/2016.

In your e-mail you make the following request for access to documents:

*"...on the topic of endocrine disruptors (also spelled: disrupters), all emails with in attachment scientific studies, or in general documents containing conclusions drawn by scientists or scientific organisations, sent to officials/representatives of the European Commission (all DGs, including the SG) by third parties (between July 2013 and March 14th 2016".*

You will find a list of the identified documents in the annex to this letter.

Please note that these documents were received by the Commission from external scientists or scientific organisations. They are disclosed for information only and cannot be re-used without the agreement of the originators, who hold a copyright on them. They do not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

In addition, some of the documents to which you have requested access, contain personal data which was blanked out following the justification provided below.

Pursuant to Article 4(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 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 Community 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<sup>1</sup>.

When access is requested to documents containing personal data, Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 becomes fully applicable<sup>2</sup>. According to Article 8(b) of this Regulation, personal data shall only be transferred to recipients if they establish the necessity of having the data transferred to them and if there is no reason to assume that the legitimate rights of the persons concerned might be prejudiced.

We consider that, with the information available, the necessity of disclosing the aforementioned personal data to you has not been established and that it cannot be assumed that such disclosure would not prejudice the legitimate rights of the persons concerned. Therefore, we are disclosing the documents requested expunged from this personal data.

If you wish to receive these personal data, we invite you to provide us with arguments showing the need for having these personal data transferred to you and the absence of adverse effects to the legitimate rights of the persons whose personal data should be disclosed.

In case you would disagree with the assessment that the expunged data are personal data which can only be disclosed if such disclosure is legitimate under the rules of personal data protection, you are entitled, in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, 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 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,



Bjorn Hansen  
Head of Unit

Annex: List of documents GestDem 2016-1768

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<sup>1</sup> Official Journal L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> Judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU of 29 June 2010 in case 28/08 P, Commission/The Bavarian Lager Co. Ltd, ECR 2010 I-06055.