



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

The Director General

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By registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt

Ms Gabriela Villegas
Avenida Emperatriz Isabel 14
28019 Madrid
Spain

Advance copy by email :
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Subject: Your application for access to documents Ref GestDem 2018/2057

Dear Ms Villegas,

I refer to your e-mail dated 10 April 2018 in which you make a request for access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹ ("Regulation 1049/2001"), registered on 11 April 2018 under the reference number GestDem 2018/2057.

You request access to:

- *a list of meetings and reports of those meetings of DG TRADE officials and the Department of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, as regards the final stage of the negotiations for the FTA between the EU and Mexico.*
- *correspondence between Commissioner Malmström and Luis Videgaray, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, between December 2017 and February 2018.*

On 18 April 2018, you clarified that the *final stage of the negotiations* would cover the period from December 2017 to February 2018.

I would like to inform you that DG TRADE does not hold any documents that would correspond to the description given in your application.

Negotiations and discussions between the EU and Mexico for the trade-related part of the modernised Global Agreement are in principle held between DG TRADE and the Secretariat of Economy, not the Department of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. Shortly after the

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43.

negotiating rounds on the trade-related part DG TRADE systematically publishes reports which are available on DG TRADE's "transparency in action" webpage (<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-mexico-trade-agreement/>).

The EU counterpart of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Mexico is the European External Action Service (EEAS). In line with this working arrangement, Commissioner Malmström's counterpart concerning these negotiations is Mr Ildefonso Guajardo, State Secretary for Economy, and not Mr Luis Videgaray, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

This being said, during the period you asked for, DG TRADE officials have participated only in one meeting with a Mexican delegation which was led by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. On the EU side, the EU delegation was led by the European External Action Service. This meeting took place via videoconference on 12 December 2017. DG TRADE does not hold a report of this meeting.

As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation 1049/2001, the right of access as defined in that regulation applies only to existing documents in the possession of the institution.

Given that no such documents corresponding to the description given in your application are held by DG TRADE, we are not in a position to handle your request.

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 unit SG-B-4
BERL 5/282
BE-1049 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Luc DEMARTY