



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS

Directorate D: Equality and Union citizenship  
**Unit D.2: Gender equality**

Brussels  
JUST.D.2/IBT/JE

Mr Olivier Hoedeman  
Corporate Europe Observatory  
(CEO)  
Rue d'Edimbourg 26  
B-1050 Brussels  
Belgium

***Per email:***

[ask+request-7974-  
088fdb6c@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-7974-088fdb6c@asktheeu.org)

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – GESTDEM 2020/3028**

Dear Mr Olivier Hoedeman,

We refer to your e-mail of 15 May 2020 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 19 May 2020 under the above-mentioned reference number.

You request access to, I quote:

- minutes and other reports of meetings between the European Commission (President von der Leyen, Commissioners, cabinet members, Commission staff, etc.) and representatives of industry stakeholders (including BUSINESSEUROPE, SMEunited, CEEP, BDI, BDA and others) where the issue of pay transparency was mentioned, between December 2019 and today. In the light of the lockdown and other corona-related restrictions, physical meetings are unlikely to have happened since mid-March. Please also include minutes and other reports of zoom meetings, phone calls and other exchanges during which the issue of pay transparency was mentioned.
- all correspondence (including emails) between the European Commission (President von der Leyen, Commissioners, cabinet members, Commission staff, etc.) and representatives of industry stakeholders (including BUSINESSEUROPE, SMEunited, CEEP, BDI, BDA and others) in which the issue of pay transparency was mentioned, between December 2019 and today.

Please note that due to the wide scope of your request, covering also areas falling under the responsibility of other Directorates-General, parts of your request have been attributed to other Directorates-General.<sup>1</sup> This reply relates only to the documents held by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers. You will receive the replies from the other respective Directorates-General in due course.

---

<sup>1</sup> GESTDEM 2020/2029 SG, GESTDEM 2020/2030 DG EMPL.

Your application concerns the following documents:

1. Minutes of the meeting between the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises (CEEP) and Commissioner Dalli - 08.06.2020, reference Ares(2020)3272077
2. Minutes of meeting between Commissioner Dalli and European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), 18.03.2020, reference Ares(2020)3126426
3. Letter from Cooperatives Europe, Request for a meeting (+ reminder + Letter) on behalf of the President of Cooperatives Europe - to discuss how their organization can provide support in Commission work, 20.01.2020, reference Ares(2020)423729
4. Minutes of meeting (conference call) between CAB members and Cooperatives Europe - 26.03.2020, reference Ares(2020)3126043
5. Minutes of meeting between CAB members and Equal Pay Coalition (EPIC) - 06.03.2020  
reference Ares(2020)3126242
6. Email, Invitation on behalf of the European Trade Union Confederation, 25.02.2020, reference Ares(2020)1012718
7. Email, Invitation from Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB) as a speaker, 24.06.2020  
09.03.2020, reference Ares(2020)1451422
8. Email, Declined invitation, 8 May 2020, reference Ares(2020)1451422

With regard to the documents 3, 7 and 8 listed above, 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; (documents 7 and 8)
- the names/initials and contact details of other natural persons; (document 8)
- handwritten signatures/abbreviated signatures of natural persons. (document 3)

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.

Please note that documents originating from third parties 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.

Several of the documents were drawn up for internal use under the responsibility of the relevant services of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers and its Cabinet. It solely reflects the services' interpretation of the interventions made and does not set out any official position of the third parties to which the document refers, which was not consulted on its content. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

In case you would 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,

Ingrid Bellander Todino  
Head of Unit