



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Secretariat-General

Directorate C – Transparency, Efficiency and Resources

SG.C.1-Transparency, Document Management and Access to Documents

Brussels,  
SG.C.1

***By registered letter with AR***

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**Subject: Your confirmatory application for access to documents under  
Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 - GESTDEM 2021/2695 –  
Clarification request**

Dear Mr Haar,

I refer to your e-mail of 14 July 2021, registered on 15 July 2021, by which you submit a confirmatory application in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents<sup>1</sup> (hereafter ‘Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001’).

First, please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in handling of your request, which resulted from the necessary internal consultations due to the potential exceptions applicable and due to our limited human resources in light of the workload generated by other pending requests.

Your confirmatory application was submitted in relation to your initial application of 26 April 2021 in which you requested, I quote:

‘The final version of the report written by BlackRock on integration of ESG factors into banks' risk strategies, including annexes.

All written communication, including emails, between DG FISMA and BlackRock on the report mentioned above since 1. December 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 145 of 31.5.2001, p. 43.

Minutes of meetings between BlackRock and DG FISMA concerning the report mentioned above since 1. December 2020.'

The European Commission has identified the following documents as falling under the scope of the first part of your request for access to, I quote: 'The final version of the report written by BlackRock on integration of ESG factors into banks' risk strategies, including annexes,':

- FISMA/2019/024/D: Second invoice and declaration of no pre-existing rights, 02-06-2021, registered under reference Ares(2021)3628461 (hereafter 'document 1');
- FISMA/2019/024/D – Submission: Final Study, 02-06-2021, registered under reference Ares(2021)3622742 (hereafter 'document 2');
- Study contract FISMA/2019/024/D - updated executive summary (EN), 21-05-2021, registered under reference Ares(2021)3408018 (hereafter 'document 3');
- Service contract FISMA/2019/024/D1/OP/ST - Letter of rejection of final deliverables, 30-04-2021, registered under reference Ares(2021)2903444 (hereafter 'document 4');
- Service contract FISMA/2019/024/D - our preliminary comments on the final deliverables, 20-04-2021, registered under reference Ares(2021)2635528 (hereafter 'document 5');
- FISMA/2019/024/D – Submission: Final Study, 01-04-2021, registered under reference Ares(2021)2256865 (hereafter 'document 6');
- FISMA/2019/024/D – Submission of preliminary Executive Summary, 16-03-2021, registered under reference Ares(2021)1891115 (hereafter 'document 7').

In its initial reply dated 2 July 2021, the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union:

- Informed you that the final version of the requested report is pending publication; and
- Refused access to documents 1-7 based on the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(2) (protection of commercial interests) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

In your confirmatory application of 14 July 2021, you request a review of this position.

In the meantime, on 27 August 2021, the European Commission has made public the documents falling under the scope of your request for access to, I quote: 'The final version of the report written by BlackRock on integration of ESG factors into banks' risk strategies, including annexes,' under the following links to:

- The final study: <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2874/220248>; and
- The executive summaries: <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2874/70559>.

Therefore, taking into account the formulation of your application and the factual development described above, the Secretariat-General would like to consult you whether you still require the Secretariat-General to review the initial position of the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union also as regards documents 1-7.

Yours sincerely,

Mariusz Dac  
Deputy Head of Unit