



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

The Director-General

Brussels, 15/02/2023  
MP ener.a.1(2023)1530492

Mr Barnaby Pace  
Global Witness  
Rue de Commerce 31  
1000 Brussels

by email: [ask+request-12350-bcd70f92@asktheeu.org](mailto:ask+request-12350-bcd70f92@asktheeu.org)

**Subject: Your application for access to documents – EASE 2022/7349**

Dear Mr Pace,

We refer to your e-mail of 20 December 2022 in which you make a request for access to documents, registered on 20 December 2022 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 December 14 between Stefano Grassi and GasNaturally.*

Your application concerns the following documents:

| Nr | Stakeholder  | Ares              | Date       | Title  |
|----|--------------|-------------------|------------|--|
| 1  | GasNaturally | Ares(2022)7730922 | 09/11/2022 | MEETING REQUEST SG [open-date] + joint statement 'The Future of Gaseous Fuels in the EU Energy Market' |
| 2  | GasNaturally | Ares(2023)530778  | 18/11/2022 | RE: Meeting Request: The Future of Gaseous Fuels in the EU Energy Market                               |
| 3  | GasNaturally | Ares(2023)152370  | 13/12/2022 | RE: Meeting Request: The Future of Gaseous Fuels   |

|   |              |                   |            |   |
|---|--------------|-------------------|------------|---|
|   |              |                   |            | in the EU Energy Market   |
| 4 | GasNaturally | Ares(2022)8891652 | 21/12/2022 | Meeting Minutes - GasNaturally  |
| 5 | GasNaturally | Not registered    | 13/12/2022 | Briefing for Head of Cabinet Stefano Grassi:<br>NOT AUTHORISED FOR DISCLOSURE |

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 documents from 1 to 4 listed above may be partially disclosed.

In fact, 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.

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.

Access is granted to minutes of a meeting with external parties. 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, which was not consulted on its content. It does not reflect the position of the Commission and cannot be quoted as such.

With reference to the document n.1, *Joint statement 'The Future of Gaseous Fuels in the EU Energy Market'*, the document is already public here:

<https://gasnaturally.eu/publication/joint-statement-of-the-czech-presidency-and-gasnaturally-on-the-future-of-gaseous-fuels-in-the-eu-energy-market/>

With reference to the document n.5, originating from Commissioner Simson and/or her Cabinet, we cannot provide the requested briefing for the meeting between Stefano Grassi and GasNaturally on 14/12/2022. Disclosing the briefing is prevented by the exception to the right of access laid down in Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 because it would not be beneficial to ongoing relationships with the interlocutors, and it would therefore potentially undermine the Commission's decision-making process in future.

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,

Ditte Juul Jørgensen