



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
CLIMATE ACTION  
The Director-General

Brussels  
CLIMA

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**Subject: Your application for access to documents EASE 2023/2531**

Dear Ms Girvan,

We refer to your request for access to European Commission documents registered on 2 May 2023 under the above-mentioned reference number.

In your application, you requested access to:

*“Correspondence, and minutes/notes of meetings between Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans and/or his cabinet, with the US Secretary of Agriculture, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), or the US Dairy Export Council (USDEC), on the subject of the Global Methane Pledge, methane emissions, livestock emissions, agricultural emissions, livestock, cattle, dairy, beef or meat, in 2022.”*

Having examined your request for documents under the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2011 regarding public access to documents, I regret to inform you that the Cabinet of EVP Frans Timmermans does not hold any documents that would correspond to the description given in your application, since no meetings have taken place with the US Secretary of Agriculture, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), or the US Dairy Export Council (USDEC) in 2022. As specified in Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 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 the Commission, the Commission is not in a position to fulfil your request.

Please note that the list of meetings of the Executive Vice-President Timmermans, his Cabinet, and the meetings of the Director-General of Directorate-General for Climate Action with organisations and self-employed individuals are available in the links enclosed below:

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyinitiative/meetings/meeting.do?host=f1afd532-0d40-4dcd-8e45-667b57075377>

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyinitiative/meetings/meeting.do?host=ec1ecb7e-2615-44eb-895b-6b08637c2a0d>

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyinitiative/meetings/meeting.do?host=d41e42be-7ff1-4635-bb4f-e47d38f886ed&startDate=16-03-2018>

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyinitiative/meetings/meeting.do?host=d41e42be-7ff1-4635-bb4f-e47d38f886ed>

Please note that the Members of the Commission shall make public information on all meetings held by them and by members of their Cabinet with organisations or self-employed individuals on issues relating to policy-making and implementation in the Union in accordance with the Commission Decision 2104/839/EU, Euratom of 25 November 2014. The same obligation applies to officials of the European Commission having the status of Director-General in accordance with the Commission Decision 2104/838/EU, Euratom of 25 November 2014. However, the same obligation does not apply to lower-ranking officials, such as the remaining members of the Directorate-General for Climate Action.

In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, you are entitled to make a confirmatory application requesting the Commission to review this position.

Such a confirmatory application should be addressed to the Secretariat-General of the Commission within 15 working days upon receipt of this letter. You can submit it in one of the following ways:

**by asking for a review via your portal<sup>1</sup> account** (available only for initial requests submitted via the portal account),

**or by mail:**

European Commission  
Secretariat-General  
Transparency, Document Management & Access to Documents (SG.C.1)  
BERL 7/076  
B-1049 Bruxelles

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

Yours sincerely,

Kurt Vandenberghe  
Director-General

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-request>