



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Director-General

Brussels,

*By registered letter with acknowledgment  
of receipt*

Alexander FANTA  
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Germany

*Advance copy by e-mail:*

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**Subject: Your application for public access to documents – GestDem Ref  
No 2019/3981**

Dear Mr Fanta,

We refer to your application of 9 July 2019 and your clarification of 15 July 2019 through which you submitted an application for access to documents, within the framework of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001<sup>1</sup>.

You requested access to:

*“- a list of lobby meetings held by the Directorate-General with Google or its intermediaries. The list should include: date, individuals attending + organisational affiliation, the issues discussed;*

*- minutes and other reports of these meetings;*

*- all correspondence including attachments (i.e. any emails, correspondence or telephone call notes) between the Directorate-General and Google or any intermediaries representing its interests.*

*- All documents prepared for the purpose of the meeting and/or exchanged during the course of the meeting”*

At the outset, we would like to clarify that we understand that the ‘lobby meetings’ in your request refer to meetings organised to discuss issues related to policy-making and

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43), hereinafter referred to as ‘Regulation 1049/2001’.

implementation in the Union with organisations or self-employed individuals. Please note that those meetings are normally held by the Commissioner, Directors-General of the Commission or Members of the Cabinet. In view of that, we interpreted your request as concerning only those high level meetings. If you wish so, you may of course submit a new request for access to documents referring to meetings with Commission officials at lower levels of hierarchy within our Directorate-General.

Against this background, we regret to inform you that we have not identified any documents that would correspond to the description given in your application. Therefore, we are not in a position to handle your request. 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.

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**  
**Secretariat-General**  
**Unit SG C.1 – Transparency, document management & access to documents**  
**BERL 5/282**  
**B-1049 Brussels**  
**Belgium**

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

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Eric Paquet