



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77 or
08459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:
Our ref: RF6977
Date: 18 December
2014

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: DEFRA COMMUNICATIONS AND MEETINGS WITH
EUROPABIO SINCE 15 JULY 2014. REF. RFI6977**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 27 October, about Defra communications and meetings with EuropaBio since 15 July 2014. As you know we have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). I apologise for the delay in responding.

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information. I enclose a copy of the information which can be disclosed, which consists of e-mail correspondence between Defra and EuropaBio, with two EuropaBio press releases.

A very small part of the information you requested is being withheld as it falls under regulations 12(3) and 13(1) (third party personal data) of the EIRs, as the information constitutes personal data relating to third parties. This data consists of names and contact details of people sending or receiving the correspondence disclosed. Regulations 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIRs provide that personal data relating to third parties is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data, in two ways. First, disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data, second, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 to the DPA. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under regulation 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIRs.



In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

We attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you. We also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely

Defra FOIA and EIRs Team

InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

:

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the Open Government Licence. For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see The National Archives website.

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the Intellectual Property Office's website.

Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

RFI6977: DEFRA COMMUNICATIONS AND MEETINGS WITH EUROPABIO ON GM ISSUES 15 JULY – 27 OCTOBER 2014

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 8/10/14

Subject: EuropaBio Press release: Italy and France awarded for their Most Innovative EU Biotech SMEs 2014

SEE DOC 3 ATTACHED

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 6/10/14

Subject: EuropaBio Press release: 2nd edition of European Biotech Week opens across Europe with more than 100 events planned in 11 countries to showcase and discuss the benefits of biotech, 06-12 October 2014

SEE DOC 2 ATTACHED

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 23/9/14

Dear -----,

Regarding Juncker's statements I think we figured out what they intend to do to review :

In deviation from the standard post Lisbon examination procedure under comitology, a couple of sectoral legislations already provide "no opinion, no adoption" clauses...

See Q4 <http://europolitics.info/six-questions-candidate-commissioners>

Have a good trip

Best

EMAIL FROM DEFRA TO EUROPABIO 17/9/14

Subject: Re: Vice president?

Thank you for the information -----.

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 17/9/14

Subject: Vice president?

Dear -----,

The health & food safety Commissioner does not specifically report to any vice president according to this EC memo http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-523_en.htm .

Rather, he only reports to those vice presidents who have every Commissioner reporting to them (namely Timmermans for better regulation and Georgieva for budget & human resources)

Best regards

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 2/9/14

Dear -----

----- from Monsanto (in cc) will be also available to join the meeting on 11th September.

Kind regards,

EMAIL FROM DEFRA TO EUROPABIO 1/9/14

To: -----

Subject: RE: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety_meeting and final positions

Hi all,

Yes, 10:30 works well for us.

Kind regards,

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 1/9/14

Subject: RE: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety_meeting and final positions

Dear -----

Would you be available to meet ----- and ----- (both in copy) at 10:30?

Kind regards,

EMAIL FROM DEFRA TO EUROPABIO 1/9/14

Subject: RE: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety_meeting and final positions

Dear -----,

I won't be in Brussels on 10 September, so can we meet in London on 11 September? If you can suggest some suitable times I'll arrange a meeting room at Defra.

Many thanks,

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 26/8/14

Subject: RE: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety_meeting and final positions

Dear -----,

Thank you very much for kindly accepting our request for a meeting!

As indicated in my last e-mail, should the meeting take place in London, ----- of Bayer and ----- of Syngenta (both in copy), representing EuropaBio at the MOP7, will be pleased to meet you, preferably on 11th September.

Should you, however, come to Brussels, you can most likely meet with more EuropaBio members here, again on September 11th. When do you expect a confirmation of your business trip?

As already discussed, please also find attached the industry position papers on Article 18.2(a), Article 17, Article 15, Article 18.3, Article 26 and contained use, which are also available on the CropLife International website (<http://croplife.org/plant-biotechnology/biosafety-protocol/>).

I remain at your disposal for further questions!

Many thanks and kind regards,

EMAIL FROM DEFRA TO EUROPABIO 26/8/14
Subject: RE: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety_meeting request

Dear -----,

Many thanks for getting in touch. It would be very helpful to have a meeting, I'm available on both the afternoon of 8 and all day 11 September. Would it be possible to meet in London, or to have the meeting via a teleconference? It's possible that I'll be in Brussels on 10 September, in which case I could meet you on 11 September in Brussels, but this is yet to be confirmed.

Kind regards,

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 25/8/14
Subject: RE: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety_meeting request

Dear -----,

Thank you very much for your e-mail (attached below) and apologies for the belated reply mainly due to the summer holidays season!

On behalf of EuropaBio, I would like to confirm that we intend to provide you by 4th September with the industry's views with regard to specific agenda items for the upcoming COP-MOP7. We are currently in the process of finalising our positions in coordination with CropLife International and under the auspices of the Global Industry Coalition (GIC).

Furthermore, we would like to kindly request a meeting with you and your colleagues which will allow us to exchange views and explain the industry positions on the different topics.

Depending on your availability and convenience, ----- of Bayer and -----t of Syngenta, who will be representing EuropaBio at the MOP7, will be happy to meet with you on the 8th or 11th September. Please let us know whether this will suit you and your team.

Many thanks and best wishes,

EMAIL FROM EUROPABIO TO DEFRA 4/8/14

Dear -----,

Many thanks for your kind email.

I am copying those Colleagues who work most in this area, at European and International level.

We will be sure to get back to you by September 4th with any comments we may have.

Best wishes,

EMAIL FROM DEFRA TO EUROPABIO & OTHERS 31/7/14

Subject: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Dear Colleague,

I am the head of the team within Defra dealing with GM policy and regulation. I am writing to contacts representing a range of stakeholder groups that may have an interest in the forthcoming international meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (<http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>).

The next meeting of the Parties will take place in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, between 29 September and 3 October. An agenda and some meeting documents have been issued by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and are available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MOP-07>. Further documents will be added as they are developed in the lead up to the meeting.

I will be attending the meeting in Korea as the head of the UK delegation. We will be working very closely with colleagues from across the EU to develop an EU negotiating position.

If you have specific comments on the agenda items or papers please let me know by 4 September. This will allow consideration ahead of the meeting.

Kind regards,
