

**Question for written answer E-012196/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Nessa Childers (S&D)

Subject: TTIP negotiations, tobacco industry and partial disclosure of documents

On 26 August 2015, the Commission team in charge of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations publicly stated that the heavily redacted documentation disclosed with the reply from the Secretary-General of the Commission to Corporate Europe Observatory's confirmatory application for access to documents under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 – Ref Gestdem 2015/1635 (Commission reference SG.B.4/CJ/ps - sg.dsg2.b.4(2015) 3844446) 'is not about TTIP and has absolutely nothing to do with it'.

Yet in point 2.1 of her reply, the Secretary-General invokes the third indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 to justify the application of exceptions to disclosure, on the grounds that the documents 'contain elements that relate to the Commission's negotiating positions with regard to tobacco in the ongoing bilateral negotiations for a free trade agreement with the USA and Japan. [...] The disclosure of these elements would reveal the Commission's negotiating positions and tactical considerations. This, in turn, would weaken the EU's position in the ongoing negotiations [...] thereby reducing the margin of manoeuvre of the Commission in the context of the free trade agreement negotiations.'

Could the Commission therefore confirm that the heavily redacted documentation in question has absolutely nothing to do with TTIP?