

**From:** COGELS Helen (CAB-MALMSTROM) on behalf of MALMSTROM Cecilia (CAB-MALMSTROM)  
**Sent:** Tuesday 30 September 2014 16:53  
**To:** 'estelle@accessnow.org'  
**Cc:** Raegan MacDonald; CAB MALMSTROM ARCHIVES  
**Subject:** FW: Open letter from Access regarding document acquired through freedom of information request  
**Attachments:** Open letter to Commissioner Malmström.pdf

Dear Madame Estelle Massé,

I have not been aware of the origin of the e-mail itself until yesterday evening. Before that, the only information I had about its existence came from a journalist request. To be specific, a journalist from Der Spiegel sent me few lines from the message, defining it as an email-correspondence of the U.S. Department of Commerce from 12 January 2012, of which he had a copy. So, when replying to his questions and to MEPs' questions during the hearing yesterday, the full origin of the mail was still unclear to me, hence my reference to it as a leaked document. Only after the hearing the origins of the email became clear to me through media reports.

It has never been my intention to put into question the validity of the e-mail and I have never accused anyone, be it your organisation or the US Department of Commerce, of having falsified any document.

Please note that I have been a proponent for increased transparency in public institutions throughout my political career. In the country I know best, Sweden, public authorities are traditionally far more open when it comes to access to documents than what EU institutions have been. I strongly believe that EU bodies can increase their transparency in many ways. As a Member of the European Parliament, I was a rapporteur for the 1049/2001 regulation on public access to documents, pursuing negotiations with the Council and the Commission for increasing transparency. On a side note, I also believe much can be done to strengthen transparency further around EU trade negotiations, something I intend to pursue as Commissioner for Trade.

Best regards,  
Cecilia Malmström