



## The European Commission's refusal to give full public access to documents concerning statistical data from Spain on active substances used in pesticides

**Case** 1170/2021/OAM - **Opened on** 05/07/2021 - **Institution concerned** European Commission |

The complainant sought public access from the European Commission to documents concerning statistical data, reported by the Spanish authorities, on active substances in pesticides. The Commission granted access to only parts of the four documents it identified as falling under the request. It refused access to the rest, invoking exceptions under the EU's rules on public access to documents and statistical confidentiality, and arguing that disclosure of the redacted parts would undermine the commercial interests of companies from which the data was collected.

The Ombudsman opened an inquiry, asking to inspect the relevant documents and requesting clarifications from the Commission.