

HOW TO WRITE BETTER ADVOCACY EMAILS Presented by Andras Baneth

Before we start... SOUND CHECK!

Please test your sound: Can you hear me speaking?

IF your sound is not working:

- Make sure your speakers / headphones are properly plugged in and the volume is on.
- Try logging out of the webinar and logging back in.
- Try a different browser (Explorer, Chrome, Firefox).
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#1 BUSINESS COMMUNICATION TOOL

(even in the age of Slack, Teams, Whats App etc.)



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WRITTEN COMMUNICATION CAN BE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FOR PERSUASION



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PRODUCTIVITY GAIN



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PRODUCTIVITY GAIN



IT WILL HELP YOU COMMUNICATE BETTER IN ALL OTHER CONTEXTS





WHAT IS THE #1 PURPOSE OF MY MESSAGE?

 Inform / update / news (FYI)



- Inform / update / news (FYI)
- Invite or ask for meeting



- Inform / update / news (FYI)
- Invite or ask for meeting
- Apologise or fix a problem

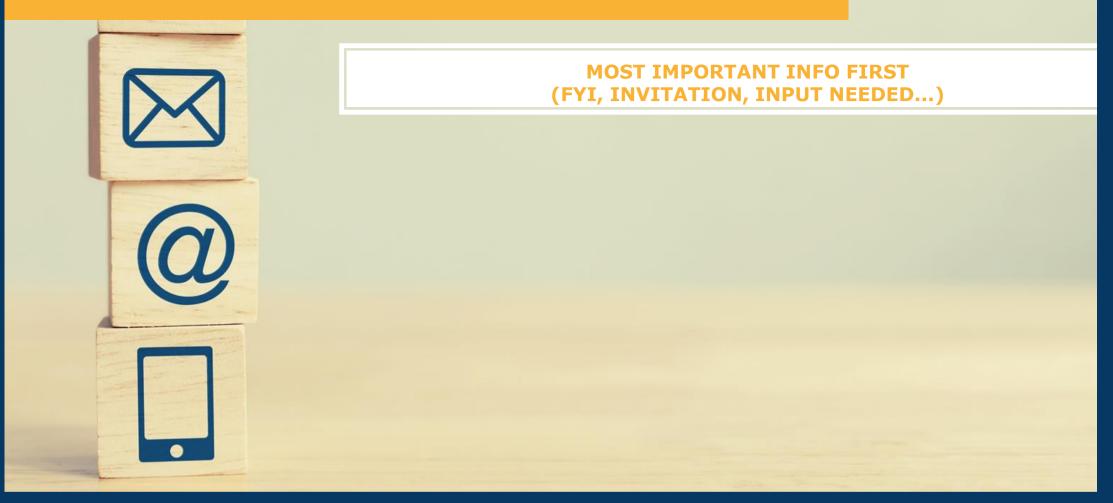


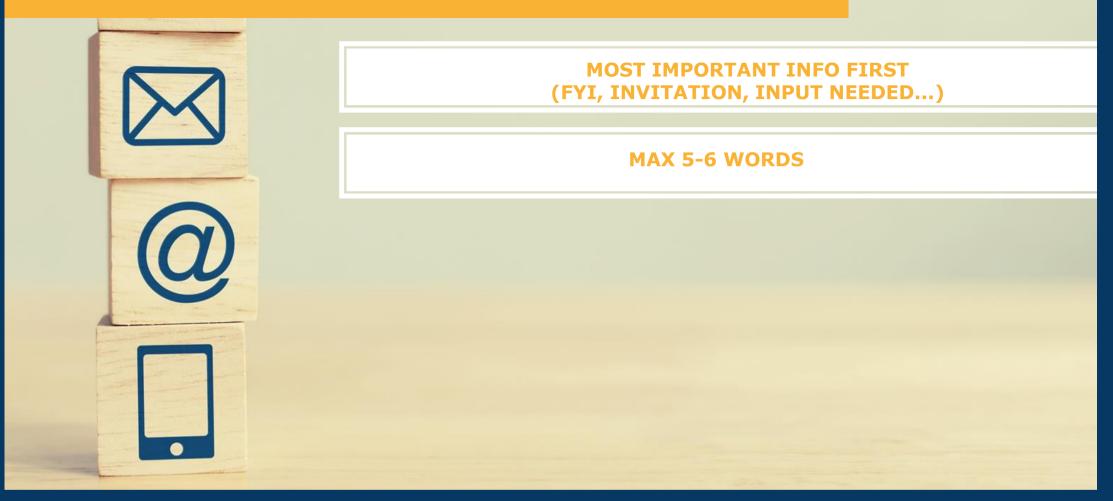
- Inform / update / news (FYI)
- Invite or ask for meeting
- Apologise or fix a problem
- Brainstorm / decide / organise

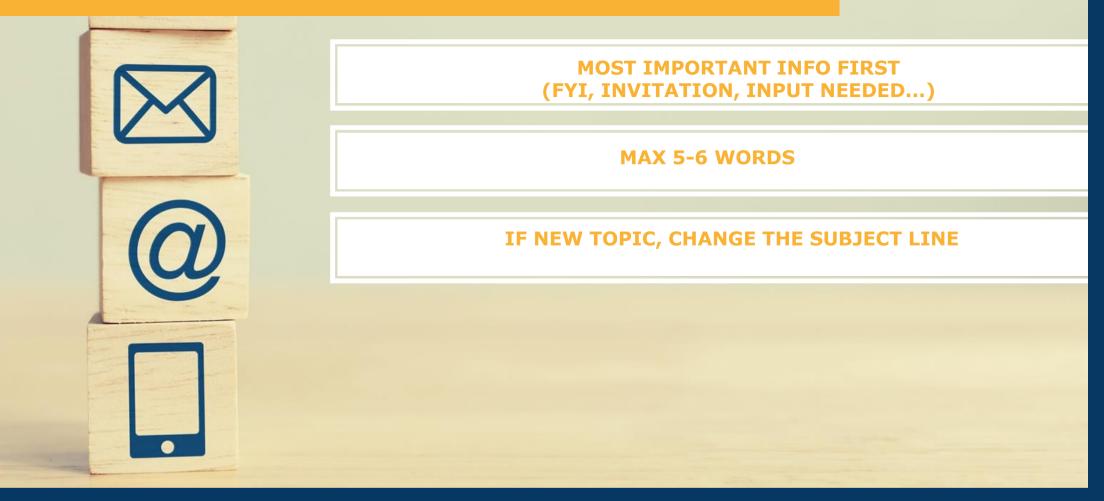


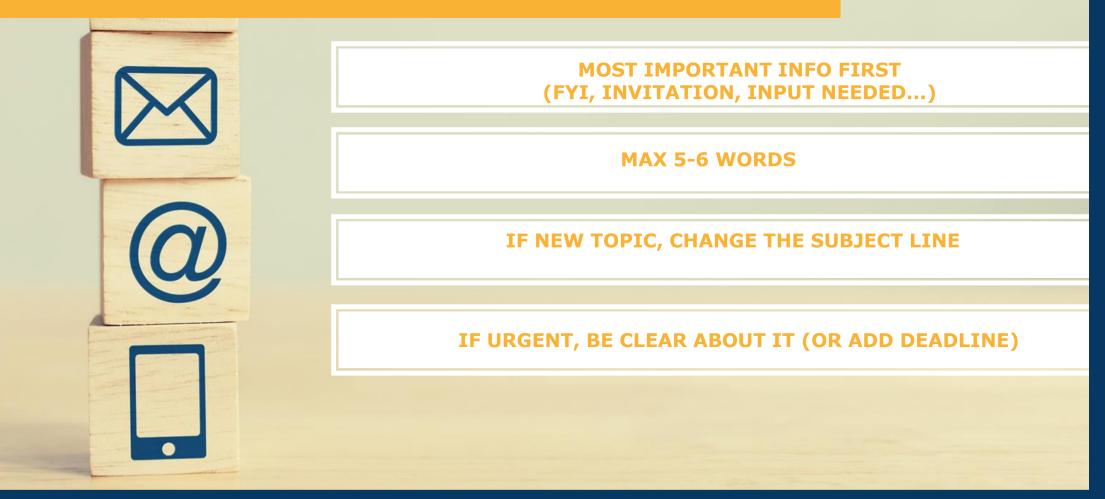
- Inform / update / news (FYI)
- Invite or ask for meeting
- Apologise or fix a problem
- Brainstorm / decide / organise
- Specific action needed (e.g. signature)

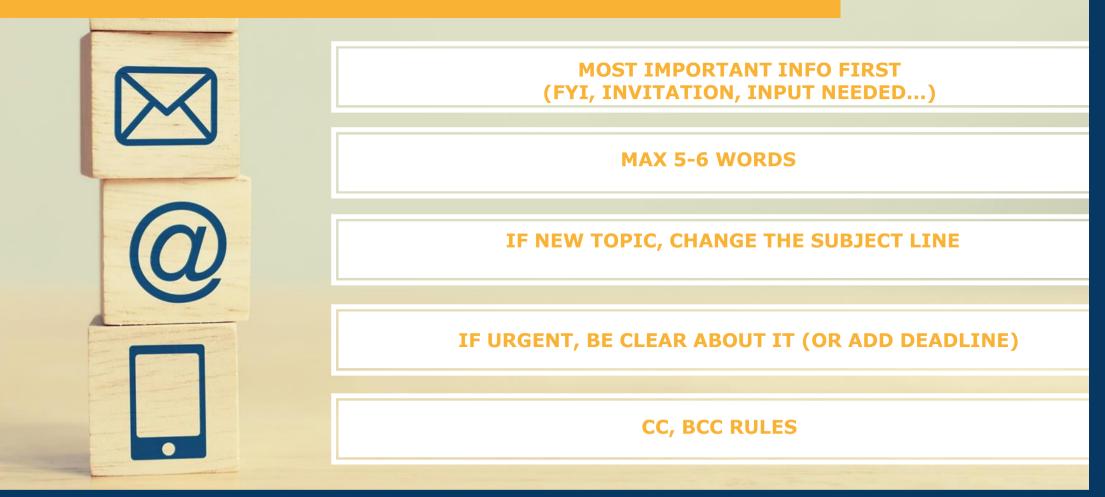




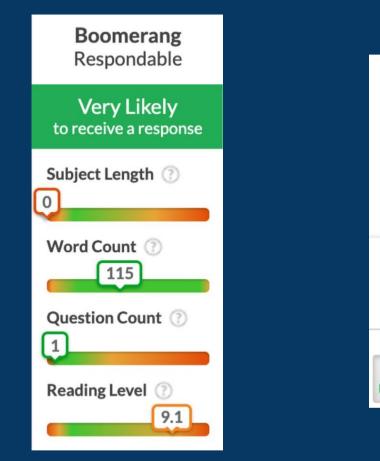








ANALYSE YOUR EMAIL



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Is this a good email...? Why?

Subject: Stakeholder conference invitation

Mr. Smith,

I'm contacting you on behalf of XY regarding the upcoming 'The future of healthcare post-COVID-19' conference.

We'd like to invite you to address the topic of 'What does the European Commission do to foster cooperation among member states?".

I understand you'd need to have the invitation cleared by your hierarchy, but we'd very much need to receive a reply within a week.

The event will take place online, using GoToWebinar, on 9 December. We very much hope you can accept our invitation.

Thank you in advance, [name]







OPENING (DEAR, 1ST NAME ONLY, HI)

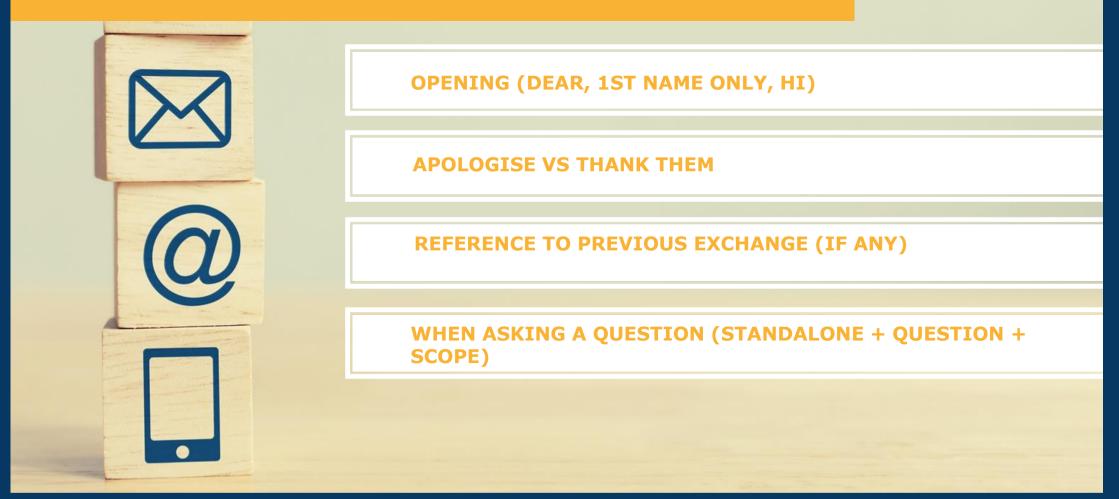
APOLOGISE VS THANK THEM

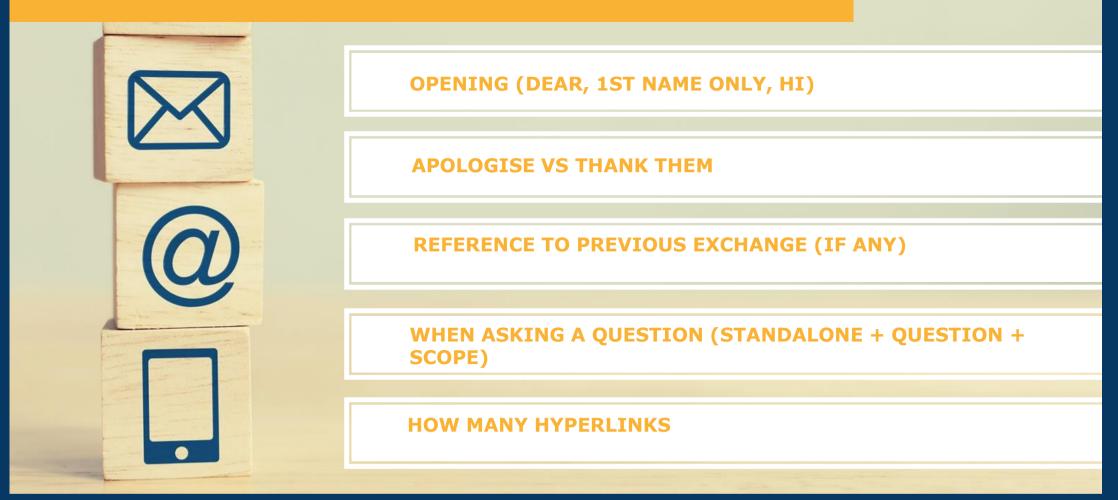


OPENING (DEAR, 1ST NAME ONLY, HI)

APOLOGISE VS THANK THEM

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS EXCHANGE (IF ANY)









SHOULD YOU BOLD OR UNDERLINE

TITLES, BULLETS, NUMBERING, @



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CAREFUL WITH RELATIVE DATES (TOMORROW ETC.)



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NEWSLETTER VS 'PERSONAL' EMAIL (E.G. MAIL MERGE)



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CAREFUL WITH RELATIVE DATES (TOMORROW ETC.)

NEWSLETTER VS 'PERSONAL' EMAIL (E.G. MAIL MERGE)

SIGN-OFF AND SIGNATURE

CASE STUDY #1 The Event Invitation Email



SAMPLE 1/2: EVENT INVITATION #1

SUBJECT: Invitation as keynote speaker – European Digital Advocacy Summit (9- 10 Dec 2020)

Dear [name],

I'm contacting you on behalf of the Public Affairs Council's European office to invite you as a keynote speaker on 26 November at a conference entitled Digital Advocacy Summit, in Brussels.

As you may recall, our organization is the world's largest non-profit association for public affairs professionals with over 700 member companies, consultancies and trade associations worldwide.

SAMPLE 1/2: EVENT INVITATION #1

SUBJECT: Invitation as keynote speaker – European Digital Advocacy Summit (9 - 10 Dec 2020)

Dear [name],

I'm contacting you on behalf of the Public Affairs Council's European office to invite you as a keynote speaker on 26 November at a conference entitled Digital Advocacy Summit, in Brussels.

As you may recall, our organization is the world's largest non-profit association for public affairs professionals with over 700 member companies, consultancies and trade associations worldwide.

The Digital Advocacy Summit will look at trends and best practices in using digital tools for advocacy, lobbying, intelligence gathering and analysis.

We'll have speakers from the European Commission, Transparency International, LinkedIn, Reuters, VELUX and many other well-known companies and organizations.

We'd be delighted if you can accept to open the event, covering the topic of "Data is the new oil".

The detailed agenda is available at: [link]

SAMPLE 2/2: EVENT INVITATION #1

continuation of email

If you are able to join our event, we'd request you to give a 30-minute presentation, followed by a Q&A of 20 minutes.

I fully understand if you are unable to accept this invitation. Should that be the case, I still hope you could perhaps designate a member of your team instead.

You are welcome to attend the full conference, and we'd be glad to welcome a client/colleague/associate of yours as well.

Do you think you can accept the above invitation?

I'd be happy to discuss the next steps with you.

Thank you in advance and best regards,

Andras Baneth

SAMPLE 1/2: EVENT INVITATION #2

SUBJECT: Panel speaker invitation - 20 Nov (Tue)3pm

Dear [name],

Hope you and your family are doing well, and you can still get some work done with your team despite the dire circumstances.

We spoke with a few of our members, and it seems everyone is looking for ideas on how others address this 'new normal'.

My invitation/question: Would you be open to sharing with others [..]?

We know that there are no 'correct answers', but pooling different perspectives can help good ideas flow.

Continued on next slide >>>

SAMPLE 2/2: EVENT INVITATION #2

continuation of email >>>

The format we had in mind is the following:

- Video call via Zoom with speakers' live feed visible
- No PPT or other visual material, so only minimal preparation is required from you
- Participants mainly from Europe
- Introduction from me and welcoming participants: 5'
- Each panelist shares their insights, experience and ideas: 5' each
- Questions from me and participants after each panelist speaks: 5'
- We're planning to have 4-5 virtual panelists
- Final Q&A
- Total time approx. 60'

• The webinar will be free to all members (paid for non-members) Ideally, we'd like to run this event on [...]. Timing during the day would depend on what works for the panelists.

Do you think you could accept this invitation? We'd be so glad if you did.

Many thanks,

Andras

CASE STUDY #2 The Meeting Request Email

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Meeting request email

Dear

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and doing well. These last few months have been challenging around the globe and your relentless work has been integral to protecting communities and businesses across Europe. I would like to congratulate you for the impressive work undertaken by the in these disruptive times.

Allow me to shortly introduce myself as the

I am responsible for

transformations. I would be very interested to exchange views and perspectives on the Presidency's goals in the financial sector and how insights could best support the Presidency's efforts in , taxation as well as anti-money laundering.

At we are committed to supporting businesses and governments in building safer economies that are sustainable, inclusive and resilient. Our goal is to create long-term value, by combining cutting-edge digital tools, commitment to high quality and focus on long-term value creation in all our work streams. Moreover, we are fully committed to enhancing tax certainty and taking purposeful action to play a more active role in fraud detection and prevention.

Being based in and given the current situation of travel restrictions, I would be grateful for the opportunity of a virtual meeting at your earliest convenience in the next few weeks.

Please find the identification number for our organization in the transparency register here:

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Revised version

Dear [name],

I hope you and your colleagues are doing well despite these challenging times.

On behalf of XY Company (Transparency Register #XX), I'd like to request a meeting to discuss topics related to taxation and anti-money laundering measures, and to offer our contribution to the Presidency's work on financial services.

At XY, we've been covering these important policy areas for five decades, and our experts from 140 countries have a unique perspective on global trends and their impact on the Internal Market.

As Global Partner, I, personally, have been working on these matters for 30 years, serving multinational clients, and I'd be more than happy to share a few insights with your colleagues.

Full email on next slide >>>

Revised version

Dear XY,

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As Global Partner, I, personally, have been working on these matters for 30 years, serving multinational clients, and I'd be more than happy to share a few insights with your colleagues.

We fully support both the European Commission and the Presidency's priorities to help businesses and governments build sustainable, inclusive and resilient economies in the EU. Fraud detection and prevention are vital components of these efforts, and I trust that our perspective could add a lot of value to your ongoing legislative work in this field.

Due to the travel restrictions and safety measures, I'm wondering if you'd be available for a virtual meeting?

I'm flexible to adapt to your schedule, or if you have some open slots, my preference would be 23, 26 or 28 October between 10am-2pm Brussels time. A 30-minute discussion would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your reply.

Best regards,

XY

p.s.: you may be interested to read our 2020 report on "<u>Economic Recovery After the</u> <u>Covid-crisis</u>" with input from Fortune 500 CEOs and market analysts

[signature]

Reiters and CASES STUDY #3 Build rapport

Inbox (169)

Diff email

(no subject)

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Follow-up after event

Subject: RE: Virtual meeting with XY - thanks and further information

Dear MEP XY,

Please let me congratulate and thank you for your intervention at the EURACTIV webinar on "XY - Challenges and opportunities" this morning.

I found your analysis very clear, precise and impactful and I welcomed your statement that connectivity per se matters more than (the yet-tocome) Gigabit connectivity, as the COVID pandemic clearly showed.

Positions like yours will certainly induce EU institutions and MS' central and local authorities to identify and implement efficient and cost- effective ways to bridge the digital divide in remote and rural areas, and I am confident satellite broadband will be among them.

In this respect, I was also pleased to notice Commissioner Wojciechowski declared himself open to any initiative able to quickly improve the currently poor broadband coverage in some of these areas.

I remain at your disposal for any support or further information you may need, and I look forward to collaborating with you soon again.

Kind regards,

CASE STUDY #4 Spot the mistakes

Inbox (140)

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(no subject)

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Sep 2

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How many mistakes can you spot? Jonathan Smith (DG ENV), Head of Unit, 22 Oct 2020

Mr. Smith,

I am contacting you behalf of Biotech Ventures Ltd., an Australian crop protection product manufacturer. We are present in Europe with a wide range of products.

We have been following EU legislative developments and noticed that the European Commission has proposed a revision of the law on maximum residue levels for pesticides.

It seems that certain issues related to crop protection need to be addressed so that no economic operator experiences any problems as a result of the revised legislation. We know that the European Parliament has been keeping a close eye on how this revision develops since it may affect global pesticide manufacturers from innovating and importing. This is because the way MRLs will be established can discourage European farmers from purchasing certain products due to a perceived lack of safety or reliability.

Our company is particularly concerned as many of our products would be not be authorised which can seriously harm our European business. Indirectly, this also means a potential loss of hundreds of jobs in our manufacturing facilities around the EU.

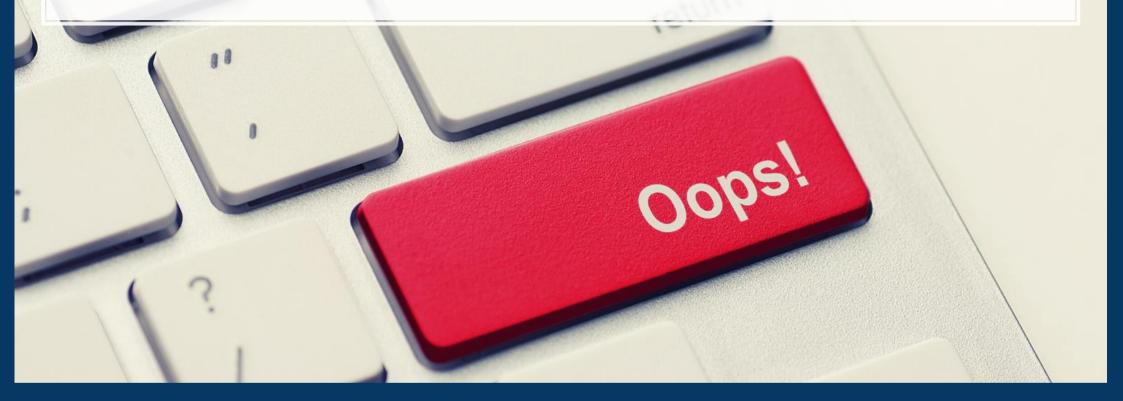
We are at your disposal to provide additional information on the above.

Please let us know a convenient time where we could meet to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely,

...

[bonus] CASE STUDY #5 You Messed Up & Need To Fix It



CRITICAL EMAIL

SUBJECT: Major privacy issue

Hello All,

I'm very upset that you put my photo and bio on your event page and it's already showing up in web searches for my name, despite the fact that we agreed that you'd wait until I've received approval from my board to speak at your conference.

This puts me in a very uncomfortable position with my boss.

I want you to take it off as soon as possible. I may not be able to speak at your event as a result of this breach of trust.

I'm waiting for your confirmation and update asap.

Thanks,

[name]

REPLY TO CRITICAL EMAIL

Dear [name],

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. I fully understand how frustrating it must have been to find your name online despite our promise to you.

I'd like to reassure you that I'll personally and urgently take care of this matter.

It was in fact my mistake, in that I forgot to flag your name to our web team and let them know that it should not yet be published.

Full email on next slide >>>

REPLY TO CRITICAL EMAIL

Dear [name],

Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. I fully understand how frustrating it must have been to find your name online despite our promise to you.

I'd like to reassure you that I'll personally and urgently take care of this matter.

It was in fact my mistake, in that I forgot to flag your name to our web team and let them know that it should not yet be published.

I've just sent an immediate request to the team to remove your name, photo and bio from the event page. I'll let you know as soon as that has been taken care of, most probably within 2 days.

We're also looking into ways to improve our internal communication to avoid this happening again.

Despite this unfortunate error, I sincerely hope you will still consider being a speaker at our event. Your insights and expertise would add tremendous value to the conference.

Thank you so much for your patience. I shall do my best to fix the issue quickly.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, I'm available via email or phone at any time.

Kind regards,

How to reply to critical emails 7 STEPS...

 117 100.

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#1 Reassure the person that you heard what they wanted to say.

111 11.

How to reply to critical emails 7 STEPS...

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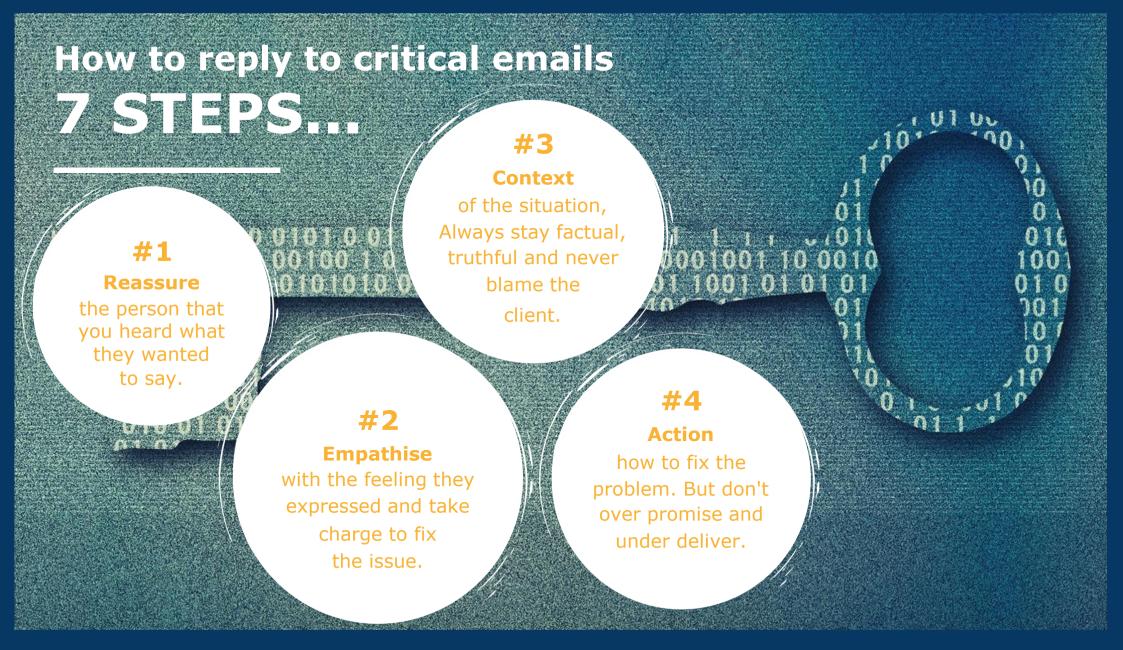
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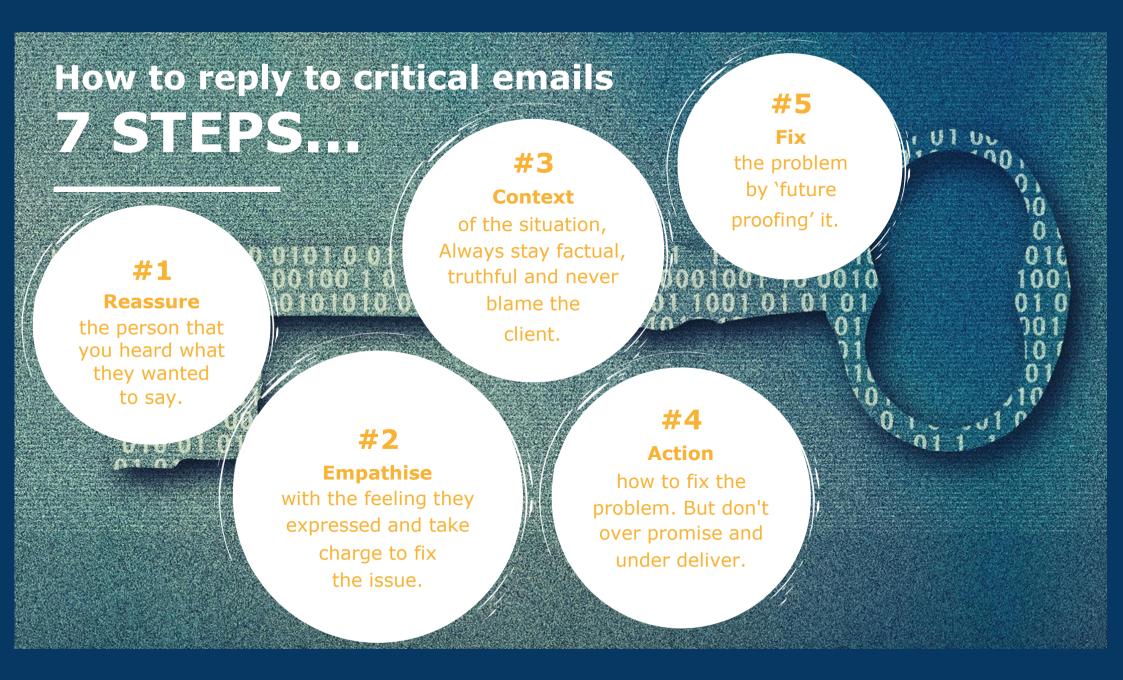
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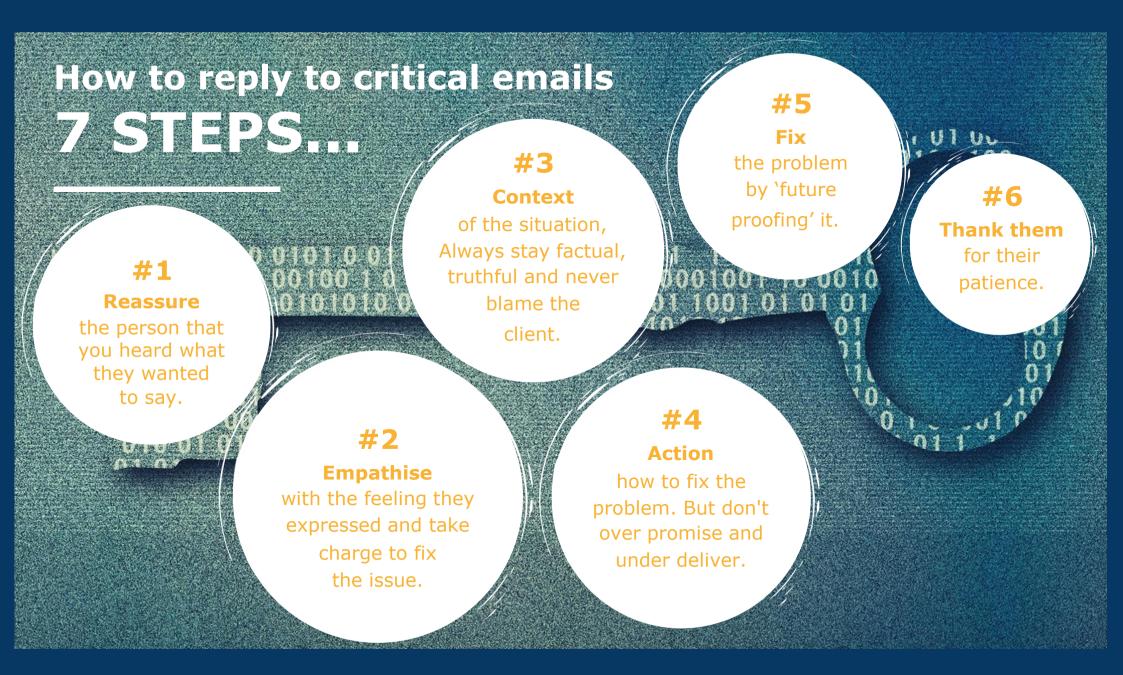
#2 Empathise

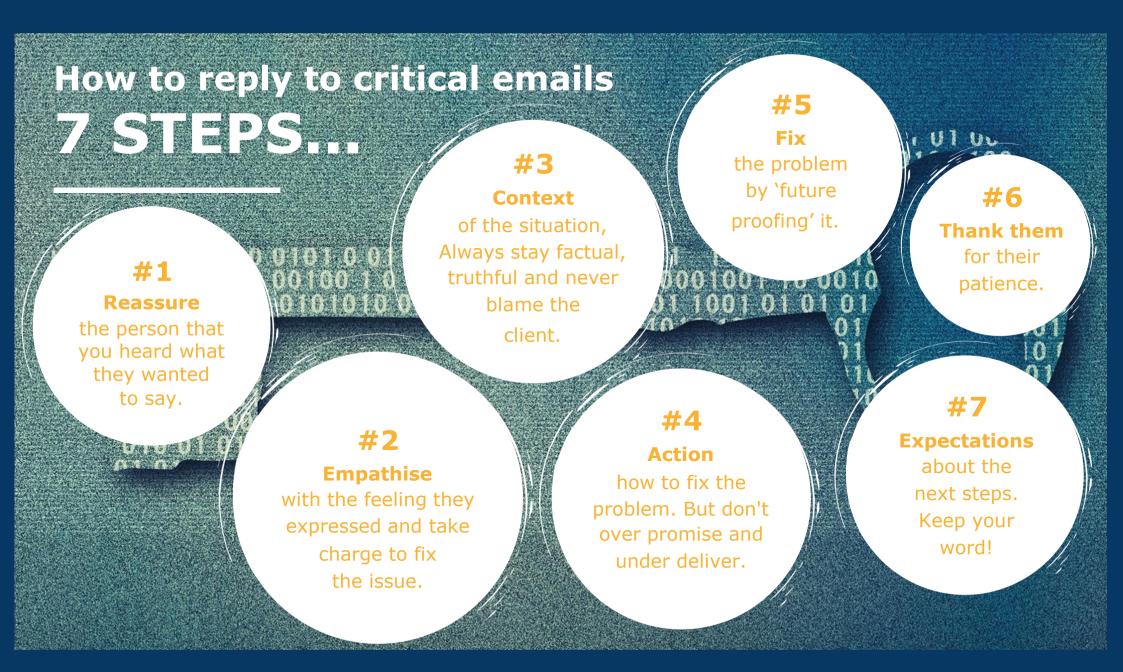
with the feeling they expressed and take charge to fix the issue.

How to reply to critical emails 7 STEPS.... 111 11. #3 Context of the situation, Always stay factual, #1 truthful and never 100 Reassure blame the the person that client. you heard what they wanted to say. #2 AND IN CALL **Empathise** with the feeling they expressed and take charge to fix the issue.









10 THINGS TO REMEMBER...

When Communicating With EU Commission Staff





QUESTIONS PLEASE

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

Connect with me on Linkedin, or email abaneth@pac.org

