

PRESS RELEASE
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Ethics Complaint Against Omnibus I's rapporteur MEP Warborn

The Good Lobby joined Transparency International to demand an investigation into Swedish MEP Jörgen Warborn for dismantling corporate protections while heading the lobby organization that wants them dismantled

BRUSSELS – A coalition of ten civil society organizations led by Transparency International EU has today filed a formal complaint with the European Parliament's Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members, alleging that Swedish MEP Jörgen Warborn is in manifest breach of the Parliament's Code of Conduct.

The complaint exposes an extraordinary conflict of interest: Warborn serves simultaneously as [President of SME Europe](#), a registered lobby organization whose stated mission is to "shape and refine EU legislation" favoring small businesses, while also serving as [Parliamentary Rapporteur](#) for legislation reducing corporate sustainability and due diligence requirements—the exact policy area his lobby organization seeks to influence.

On 29 April 2025, Warborn [appeared at an SME Europe event](#) where the agenda listed him twice: first as "President of SME Europe," then three hours later as "Rapporteur for the Omnibus Simplification Package." Despite this dual role, Warborn declared no conflict of interest when appointed rapporteur on 20 March 2025.

"When the person dismantling environmental and social protections simultaneously runs the lobby organization demanding those protections be dismantled, democracy becomes a charade" said **Professor Alberto Alemanno, Founder of The Good Lobby**. "Citizens have a right to legislators who serve the public interest - not corporate interests disguised as parliamentary work. If EU Parliament's President and advisory ethics committee refuse to act on such a blatant conflict, they're admitting the system exists to enable capture, not prevent it."

The complaint documents how Warborn proposed amendments that would narrow corporate accountability requirements beyond even the Commission's original proposal, spoke at multiple SME Europe events advocating for reduced regulatory burdens immediately before and after his appointment as rapporteur, and is regularly portrayed on SME Europe's social media in ways that blur the line between his lobbying and legislative functions.

The organisations argue this violates Article 3(1) of the Code of Conduct, which prohibits MEPs from exercising their mandate in ways that may be "improperly influenced" by private economic interests. As President of a registered lobby organisation, Warborn is expected to advance SME Europe's agenda, which directly aligns with the legislation he is drafting as rapporteur.

The coalition is calling on the European Parliament to investigate the exact circumstances of Warborn's role as President of SME Europe, how the organisation's interests pertain to the legislation he is drafting, whether his activities constitute undeclared lobbying, and whether sanctions should be applied. Despite serial ethics scandals in recent years, Parliament has repeatedly failed to enforce meaningful accountability. The organisations are demanding full transparency on how this complaint will be handled.

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