



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Office of the President Ms Ursula von der Leyen

Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 10. 03. 2026
Ares (2026) 2143676

Dear Professor Alemanno, Dear Professor Pech,

I would like to thank you, and your co-signatories, for your letter addressed to President von der Leyen, in which you raise several concerns regarding the alleged misconduct of Lord Peter Mandelson during and after his tenure as European Commissioner for Trade (2004–2008). You ask the Commission to open a formal investigation, to refer the matter to the Independent Ethical Committee, as well as to the Interinstitutional Body for Ethical Standards established pursuant to the 2024 Interinstitutional Agreement.

Members of the College are subject to strict obligations arising directly under the Treaties as well as to the ethical obligations emanating from the Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission ⁽¹⁾.

In accordance with the applicable rules, including Articles 245 and 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), former Members of the Commission are bound by certain life-long obligations even after their mandate. They must continue to behave with integrity and discretion and are also required to observe the obligation of professional secrecy.

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⁽¹⁾ Commission Decision of 31 January 2018 on a Code of Conduct for the Members of the European Commission, C(2018) 700 final.

Prof. Alberto Alemanno
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Prof. Laurent Pech
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Mr Peter Mandelson became Member of the Barroso I Commission in November 2004, and his term of office as Commissioner for Trade ended in October 2008.

I would like to assure you that the Commission takes the allegations very seriously and has referred the matter to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) for appropriate follow-up. At this stage, the Commission is not in a position to comment further on the issues raised.

Yours sincerely,



Björn Seibert