

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Our ethics complaint against MEP Alexandr Vondra over undisclosed ties to defence and fossil fuel interests

BRUSSELS, 3 June 2026 - The Good Lobby, Transparency International EU, LobbyControl and Corporate Europe Observatory today filed a **joint complaint** with the European Parliament's Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members, calling for an investigation into **MEP Alexandr Vondra** (ECR, Czech Republic) over his failure to disclose a senior role at an institution with documented ties to the defence and automotive industries.

Mr Vondra chairs the board of the Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations (PCTR), a research and advisory centre embedded within CEVRO University. Despite this role being publicly documented and actively exercised, it does not appear in his official declaration of private interests, a disclosure required of all Members of the European Parliament under Article 4 of the MEP Code of Conduct. The PCTR lists among its "Partners, Donors, Sponsors, and Supporters" two of the Czech Republic's most prominent defence companies: the Czechoslovak Group (CSG) and Colt CZ Group, both registered in the EU Transparency Register as active lobbyists. CEVRO University, within which the PCTR operates, states in [its latest Annual Report](#) that it is itself a member of the Czech defence industry association AOBP, which also includes CSG and Colt CZ.

Mr Vondra sits on the European Parliament's Security and Defence Committee (**SEDE**) and the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (**ENVI**). He currently serves as shadow rapporteur on three significant legislative files: the Defence Omnibus, the Military Mobility regulation, and the CO2 emissions standards for cars and vans. On each of these files, he has formally declared no awareness of any conflict of interest.

Yet the connections run deep. Mr Vondra has declared meetings with CSG and Colt CZ relevant to the defence files he is shadowing. He joined a parliamentary delegation that visited RETIA, a CSG subsidiary specialising in radar technology. And through CSG's ownership of Tatra Trucks - the Czech Republic's largest truck manufacturer - he has a further indirect link to the automotive lobby actively engaged on the CO2 standards file, with which he met on multiple occasions.

In his legislative work, Mr Vondra has **consistently supported positions that align with the commercial interests of these companies**: advocating for higher defence spending, streamlined ammunition transfers, accelerated permitting for defence projects, and opposing emissions standards for all vehicles.

"MEPs can have side jobs, but when they do, they must report them. That's precisely what Mr Vondra omitted to do, yet the public has a right to know. That's how they can call for a conflict of interest. We expect the EU Parliament's President and Advisory Committee to treat this complaint with the seriousness it deserves," said Prof **Alberto Alemanno**, Founder of The Good Lobby

The four organisations are urging the Advisory Committee to:

- Investigate whether Mr Vondra's failure to declare his PCTR chairmanship breaches **Article 4** of the Code of Conduct (declaration of outside activities and interests);
- Assess whether his undisclosed role constitutes a **conflict of interest** under **Article 3(1)**;
- Examine whether his position as PCTR chair implies undue influence by its principal industry backers, in violation of **Article 2(b)**;
- Determine whether he has breached **Articles 3(2), (3), and (5)** by consistently failing to declare or resolve conflicts of interest across multiple shadow rapporteurships.

If a conflict of interest is found, the organisations call for appropriate sanctions to be applied without delay.

For media inquiries

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