

2 June 2026

Dear Honourable Members of the Advisory Committee,

As organisations dedicated to the transparency and ethics of the European Union, we are writing to raise our significant concerns regarding the outside interests of [MEP Alexandr Vondra](#). We urge you to consider these concerns and to open an investigation pursuant to Article 10 (5) of the MEP Code of Conduct.

Mr Vondra's private interests and side activities

Mr Vondra is the [chairman](#) of the board of the [Prague Center for Transatlantic Relations \(PCTR\)](#). In his [declaration of interests](#), Mr Vondra did not disclose his active affiliation and [chairmanship](#) (see, for example, in [May 2026, February 2026, February 2025, May 2025](#)).

For background, the PCTR:

- *["Is a research, education, and advisory centre at CEVRO University focused on issues of international relations, security, and Czech foreign policy"](#)*.
- On its own website, the PCTR [lists](#) as *"Partners, Donors, Sponsors, and Supporters"*, among others, the [Colt CZ Group](#) and [Czechoslovak Group \(CSG\)](#) — major corporate stakeholders of the Czech defence sector, both registered ([1](#), [2](#)) as interest representatives in the EU Transparency Register.
- [CEVRO](#), the private University within which the PCTR is embedded, in its [latest annual report](#) (p. 31) claims it is a member of the [Czech defence industry association AOBP](#), also [registered](#) in the EU Transparency Register, and of which CSG and Colt CZ are also members.

Various questions arise on the probable influence Mr Vondra's affiliation and chairmanship of the PCTR have on his mandate as MEP.

Mr Vondra's work as an MEP

Mr Vondra's work on defence

In his capacity as a member of the European Parliament Security and Defence Committee (SEDE), Mr Vondra is regularly involved in legislative work that directly affects the interests of PCTR partners, including CSG and Colt CZ Group.

He is currently serving as a shadow rapporteur on the [Defence Omnibus](#) and [Military Mobility](#) files, declaring no awareness of a conflict of interest in relation to his role ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). In such files, Vondra has consistently tabled amendments advocating for increased military expenditure by Member States, [streamlined procedures](#) for the transfer of ammunition, accelerated permitting processes for defence-related projects, as well as [preferential access to funding](#) and enhanced legal protections for the sector.

In addition, Mr Vondra has declared meetings with CSG ([11 November 2025](#)) and Colt CZ ([23 April 2026](#)), relevant to the files he is following. In his capacity as shadow rapporteur for the Defence Omnibus, Mr Vondra declared meetings with CSG ([11 November 2025](#)). Further, in February 2026, Mr Vondra participated in a [delegation](#) of four MEPs that visited the facilities of [CSG subsidiary RETIA](#), specialising in radar technology for the defence sector.

Mr Vondra's work on mobility CO2 standards

As a member of the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), Mr Vondra is also involved in environmental and climate-related legislation. He has recently been appointed shadow rapporteur on the Regulation concerning emissions standards for cars and vans ([CO2 standards](#)), [declaring](#) no awareness of a conflict of interest in relation to this file.

CSG — listed as a Partner, Donor, Sponsor and Supporter of the PCTR, the institution whose board Vondra chairs — subsidiaries include [Tatra Trucks](#), the largest truck manufacturer in the Czech Republic. Tatra Trucks is a [member](#) of the Czech Automotive Industry Association (AutoSAP), which [is registered in the TR](#) and has been [openly critical](#) of the regulation. Mr Vondra had several meetings with AutoSAP on the file ([in March 2026](#), [September 2025](#), and [March 2025](#)). Mr Vondra consistently criticised environmental measures targeting the transport sector and, in 2025, [described](#) the European Commission's automotive policy as "*a path to catastrophe*."

All the above points to a relationship between Mr Vondra and PCTR's industry partners that seems to go beyond disinterested stakeholder input.

Our conclusions

A. Failure to declare outside activities and interests (in breach of Article 4 Code of Conduct)

According to Article 4 of the Code of Conduct,

“1. For reasons of transparency and accountability, Members of the European Parliament shall submit a declaration of private interests to the President by the end of the first part-session after elections to the European Parliament (or within 30 calendar days of taking up office with the Parliament in the course of a parliamentary term), in accordance with a form drawn up by the Bureau pursuant to Article 12. They shall notify the President of any changes that have an influence on their declaration by the end of the month following each change occurring.” (emphasis added)

“2. The declaration of private interests shall contain the following information, which shall be provided in a detailed and precise manner: ... (c) membership of any boards or committees of companies, non-governmental organisations, associations or other bodies established in law, or any other relevant outside activity that the Member undertakes” (emphasis added)

Mr Vondra has not declared his chairmanship of the PCTR board in his declaration of financial interests, despite the fact that this role is active and publicly documented. As set out above, PCTR’s principal partners and donors include CSG and Colt CZ Group — companies with a direct interest in EU legislative files on which Mr Vondra serves as shadow rapporteur.

B. Possible conflict of interest (in breach of Article 3 Code of Conduct)

Article 3(1) of the Code of Conduct stipulates that *“a conflict of interest exists where the exercise of the mandate of a Member of the European Parliament in the public interest may be improperly influenced for reasons involving his or her family, emotional life or economic interest, or any other direct or indirect private interest.”* Likewise, according to the General Court in Case T-115/13, *“the concept of a conflict of interest (...) relates to a situation in which the interest identified may, in the*

eyes of the public, appear to influence the impartial and objective performance of official duties.". We believe this might apply here. Any activity by Mr Vondra raises questions as to whether he is acting in the interests of the public and his constituency, or in those of the PCTR and its partners.

Article 3(2) further requires Members to "immediately endeavour to resolve" any conflict of interest. To our knowledge, this has not been undertaken by Mr Vondra. To the contrary: on the conflict of interest declarations submitted in relation to each of the above-mentioned shadow rapporteurships, Mr Vondra consistently declared no awareness of any conflict of interest.

Proposed actions

The Code of Conduct for MEPs states the following, inter alia:

"In exercising their duties, Members of the European Parliament: (a) are guided by and observe the following general principles of conduct: disinterest, integrity, openness, diligence, honesty, accountability and respect for Parliament's dignity and reputation, (b) act solely in the public interest and refrain from obtaining or seeking to obtain any direct or indirect benefit or other reward." (Article 1)

Given the above, we therefore ask the Advisory Committee to investigate the potential violations of Articles 2, 3, and 4 of the Code of Conduct described above, and in particular:

1. To clarify the exact circumstances of Mr Vondra's role as chairman of the board of the PCTR and the links with its partners (CSG, Colt CZ, etc);
2. Whether Mr Vondra's failure to declare his chairmanship of the PCTR board in his declaration of financial interests constitutes a breach of Article 4 of the Code of Conduct;
3. Whether Mr Vondra's active role as chair of the PCTR board — an institution whose principal partners and donors include CSG and Colt CZ Group, both registered EU lobbyists with a direct financial interest in files on which Mr Vondra serves as shadow rapporteur — constitutes a conflict of interest within the meaning of Article 3(1) of the Code of Conduct;
4. Whether Mr Vondra's position as chair of PCTR constitutes a situation which "might imply" undue influence by its main "Partners, Donors,

Sponsors, and Supporters", in breach of Article 2(b) of the Code of Conduct;

5. Whether Mr Vondra has failed to comply with Articles 3(2), (3), and (5) of the Code of Conduct by not endeavoring to resolve any conflict of interest, not orally disclosing any conflict before voting or speaking, and by consistently declaring no awareness of any conflict of interest in the declarations submitted in relation to his shadow rapporteurships on the Defence Omnibus, Military Mobility, and CO2 standards files.

If you find that Mr Vondra is in a position of conflict of interest, we trust that you will address this immediately and levy all appropriate sanctions.

We kindly ask you to keep us informed about the progress of our complaint in line with the recommendations of the [Ombudsman in complaint 2299/2023/MIK](#). Indeed, citizens must be informed about how their complaint or signal will be addressed, including details on the process and whether or how the outcome will be communicated to them. We trust that due importance will be given to this recommendation.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to your assessment.

Yours sincerely,

Transparency International EU

LobbyControl e.V.

Corporate Europe Observatory

The Good Lobby