

3 April 2024

Honourable members,

As civil society organisations working to improve the transparency, accountability, and integrity of the EU institutions, we are writing to you with concern regarding the current allegations surrounding the side activities of Markus Ferber MEP. We are therefore calling on the Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members of the European Parliament to open an investigation into Ferber pursuant to [Article 10 \(5\) of the Code of Conduct for Members of the European Parliament](#).

This is not the first time Ferber has been at the centre of a conflict-of-interest investigation. In 2017, Ferber [appeared](#) to have promoted TIPER, a tool aiding banks and asset management companies in navigating legislation he had helped draft as a Member of Parliament. As the ECON committee's rapporteur on the update of the Market in Financial Instruments Directive, he was one of the key negotiators of the legislation and was extremely well-versed on the text. Following these revelations, Transparency International EU [called for an investigation](#) and submitted a formal complaint about his side activities. The Parliament's resulting probe [cleared him](#) of any wrongdoing in January 2018.

Now, as new [reports](#) uncover the extent of his potential conflicts of interest, we believe Ferber's side activities merit renewed scrutiny. He is said to have organised workshops with Cfinancials, the company that developed TIPER, and multiple European banks, such as Société Générale, Rabobank and Credit Suisse, on Parliament premises. He also reportedly tried to introduce relevant Cfinancials staff to top EU officials and key financial figures. The alleged use of Ferber's parliamentary network to favour his interests raise questions regarding the extent of the influence of his business activities on his legislative work.

Offering financial consulting services and endorsing a tool such as TIPER, all while conducting parliamentary activity focused on the same sector, suggests a significant conflict-of-interest risk. As a Member of Parliament, Ferber is entrusted with responsibilities arising from his democratic electoral mandate: these side activities directly contradict his duty to prioritise the public interest over his own. We therefore urge the Advisory Committee on the Conduct of Members to open an investigation into this potential conflict of interest.

Thank you for your consideration. We remain at your disposal should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

**Transparency International EU
Corporate Europe Observatory
LobbyControl
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