

Question for written answer E-003548/2026

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Personal connections between InnoEnergy, Northvolt and Stegra

The Swedish former minister and Social Democrat Ibrahim Baylan was appointed as a special adviser at EIT InnoEnergy in 2023¹.

The financial newspaper Dagens industri later reported that Baylan was apparently an EU lobbyist for Harald Mix's investment company Vargas, which was behind a number of outfits including Northvolt and H2 Green Steel, now known as Stegra². Meanwhile, Bo Normark has been the head of industrial strategy at EIT InnoEnergy and an adviser at Vargas³.

With the above in mind:

1. Has the Commission looked into whether the overlapping roles at InnoEnergy, Vargas, Northvolt and Stegra have given rise to conflicts of interest or otherwise influenced decisions on EU funding?
2. Does the Commission take the view that it would be reasonable to exclude a company from EU funding when its managers or staff in other key positions have previously contributed – through negligence, mismanagement or irregularities – to the loss of EU or other public funds?
3. How does the Commission ensure that people who have been central to failed projects in receipt of large amounts of public funding are not able, without an in-depth review, to move on to new companies and projects that once again receive support or guarantees from EU taxpayers?

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¹ Nordic Projects, <https://www.nordiskaprojekt.se/2023/02/28/eit-innoenergy-utser-ibrahim-baylan-till-ny-sarskild-radgivare-2/>.

² Dagens Industri, <https://www.di.se/nyheter/forre-s-toppen-blir-eu-lobbyist-at-harald-mix/>.

³ Impact Loop, <https://impactloop.se/artikel/decade-vaxer-med-nya-rekryteringar---tar-in-tunga-vargas-radgivaren>.