Priority question for written answer P-002401/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Brando Benifei (S&D), Anna Cavazzini (Verts/ALE), Michael McNamara (Renew), René Repasi (S&D), Christel Schaldemose (S&D), Tiemo Wölken (S&D), Birgit Sippel (S&D), Alexandra Geese (Verts/ALE), Aurore Lalucq (S&D), Irene Tinagli (S&D), Marina Kaljurand (S&D), Sergey Lagodinsky (Verts/ALE), Damian Boeselager (Verts/ALE), Gabriele Bischoff (S&D), Nicola Zingaretti (S&D), Chloé Ridel (S&D), Jean-Marc Germain (S&D), Lena Schilling (Verts/ALE), Pierre Jouvet (S&D), Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (S&D), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Kristian Vigenin (S&D), Lucia Yar (Renew), Lynn Boylan (The Left), Marco Tarquinio (S&D), Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE), Giorgio Gori (S&D), Pierfrancesco Maran (S&D), Biljana Borzan (S&D), Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE), Emma Rafowicz (S&D), Pasquale Tridico (The Left), Sandro Ruotolo (S&D), Georgia Tramacere (S&D), Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE), Hannes Heide (S&D), François Kalfon (S&D), Laura Ballarín Cereza (S&D)

Subject: Potential conflict of interest in the appointment of the Special Envoy for Industrial AI

On 3 June 2026, the Commission created and immediately filled the post of Special Envoy for Industrial AI, appointing Jim Hagemann Snabe, Chairman of Siemens AG. The role reports directly to Commision President Ursula von der Leyen and Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen and covers AI infrastructure, cloud services, semiconductors, foundation models, industrial deployment, and coherence between innovation and the EU legislative framework[1].

Siemens is a major German industrial group with direct interests in these areas and has recently lobbied against EU AI rules affecting industrial sectors, including in the context of the AI omnibus package[2]. The interests of one incumbent company cannot be equated with the interests of Europe's diverse industrial ecosystem, which includes small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups, workers, consumers and independent experts.

Under the Staff Regulations[3] and the Commission's Rules on Special Advisers[4], special advisers must avoid conflicts of interest; the Commission asserts that safeguards exist, but will not provide details[5]. Yet the Ombudsman found a previous appointment of a special adviser to constitute maladministration where checks were bypassed[6].

---

1 European Commission, 'Commission appoints Jim Hagemann Snabe as Special Envoy for Industrial Artificial Intelligence', press release, 3 June 2026, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1243.

2 Haeck, P., 'Von der Leyen's AI pick triggers conflict-of-interest criticism', Politico, 4 June 2026, https://www.politico.eu/article/ursula-von-der-leyen-european-commission-ai-pick-criticism-conflict-of-interest-jim-hagemann-snabe/.

3 Regulation No 31 (EEC), 11 (EAEC), laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, consolidated version of 1 January 2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1962/31(1)/2026-01-01, Articles 11 and 11a.

4 https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/fb0f99da-0463-4018-bd0d-72a40c723374_en?filename=rules%20on%20special%20advisers%20c2007_6655.

5 Henning, M., 'Commission won't detail bias "safeguards" for AI envoy pick', Euractiv, 4 June 2026, https://www.euractiv.com/news/commission-wont-detail-bias-safeguards-for-ai-envoy-pick/.

6 European Ombudsman decision of 26 May 2016 in Case 1408/2015/OV on the Commission's compliance with its Rules on Special Advisers prior to the appointment of a Special Adviser to the Commission President (appointment of Edmund Stoiber); see also European Ombudsman strategic inquiry OI/6/2016/AB into the Commission's rules and practices to prevent possible conflicts of interest of Special Advisers.

1. Will the Commission publish the mandate, selection procedure, declaration of interests, and full conflict of interest assessment for this appointment?

2. What safeguards, recusals and transparency obligations will prevent privileged access and undue influence by one industrial actor over EU AI policy?

Submitted: 10.6.2026