

EN

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Answer given by Mr Serafin
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.1.2025)

Special Advisers are engaged to assist Members of the College based on the level of their professional experience and expertise. The higher grade is chosen in duly substantiated exceptional and justified cases. Prof. Strohschneider's skills, professional experience and knowledge of the subject were determinant for being engaged as a Special Adviser to the President of the Commission. As chairperson of the 'Future Commission Agriculture' (ZKL) of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (2021-2024), Prof. Strohschneider established a report on the future of agriculture. He led the 'agricultural summit' discussion with 40 associations and organisations, proving his strong negotiation skills.

Prof Strohschneider's extensive engagement in the framework of the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the EU brought together a highly diverse range of stakeholders. Thanks to this and his negotiations skills, this Strategic Dialogue presented consensual solutions showing it is possible to move beyond a polarised debate and to create trust in such a key sector. The report¹ was delivered by Prof. Strohschneider to the President of the Commission on 4 September 2024.

The procedure for the appointment of a Special Adviser is laid down in the Commission's Rules on Special Advisers², including rules on prevention of conflict of interests, prior information of the budgetary authority and specific appointment procedure.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_4528

² Commission Decision C(2007) 6655 of 19/12/2007, as amended by Commission Decision C(2014) 541 of 6/02/2014.