

**Code of Conduct
for representatives of special interests in the framework of the
Lobbying Register Act**

(Federal Government decision of 21 February 2024, Bundestag decision of 22 February 2024)

Applicable from 1 March 2024

Persons engaged in the representation of special interests within the meaning of the Lobbying Register Act (*Lobbyregistergesetz*, LobbyRG) who are subject to an obligation to register under the Act or who have registered voluntarily must operate on the basis of openness, transparency, honesty and integrity and, by enrolling in the Register, accept the following principles and Code of Conduct for themselves and their employees:

1. The representation of special interests must be carried out transparently in every contact occurring within the scope of the Lobbying Register Act. To this end, representatives of special interests must disclose their identity and their interest and, where appropriate, the identity and interest of their client, and provide accurate particulars about themselves and their mandate to represent special interests.
2. In addition, registrants must refer to their registration in the Lobbying Register on their initial contact made for the purpose of representing special interests, specifying the codes of conduct on the basis of which the representation of special interests is carried out. In the event of a change in the office or function of an addressee of the representation of special interests, the registrant's contact will be deemed to have taken place with the person and not with the office or function.
3. Agreements whereby remuneration or the amount thereof is made dependent on the success of the representation of special interests (contingent fees) must not be made.
4. Information must never be obtained by improper means. These include, in particular, providing or promising direct or indirect financial incentives to addressees of the representation of special interests, if the latter would breach their obligations by accepting such offers.
5. Confidential information obtained by representatives of special interests or their employees in the context of their representation of special interests vis-à-vis the German Bundestag or the Federal Government must only be used or passed on in a permissible way and as agreed in each instance.
6. The designation "registered representative of special interests" ("*registrierte Interessenvertreterin*" or "*registrierter Interessenvertreter*") may only be used by a person if their particulars have been properly entered in the Lobbying Register, the Register entry does not bear the annotation "not up to date" ("*nicht aktualisiert*") and no reference to an infringement of this Code of Conduct has been published in the Register.
7. If representatives of special interests are invited to public hearings in the German Bundestag as persons furnishing information or are involved in public hearings within the meaning of section 47 (3) and section 47 (5) sentence 2 of the Joint Rules of Procedure of the Federal Ministries (*Gemeinsame Geschäftsordnung der Bundesministerien*, GGO) even though the relevant Register entry bears the annotation "not up to date" ("*nicht aktualisiert*") or a reference to an infringement of this Code of Conduct has been published in the Register, this must be communicated by the representative of special interests concerned to the body responsible for the invitation or the involvement without delay and without prior request.
8. When making contact with clients, customers or other third parties, representatives of special interests must refrain from making false claims alleging the existence of a commissioning, personal or advisory relationship with the addressees of the representation of special interests referred to in the Lobbying Register Act.
9. Representatives of special interests bear sole responsibility for ensuring the correctness and completeness of particulars when registering and updating their entry. The registry monitors the content of the Register in accordance with section 4 (3) sentence 1 of the Lobbying Register Act. Representatives of special interests therefore accept that the particulars in the Lobbying Register may be reviewed by the registry and that the registry works towards ensuring that entries in the Register are revised by representatives of special interests if necessary. Representatives of special interests must provide any evidence requested by the registry in accordance with section 4 (3) sentence 3 of the Lobbying Register Act without delay. They must also ensure that questions from the registry, particularly in the context of the audit procedure under section 5 (8) of the Lobbying Register Act, are answered without delay.