

Merkel's German conservatives face tide of misdemeanours

Alleged irregularities connected to Covid-19 and other cases, CDU/CSU March 2021



Parliamentarian	Position	Allegation	Action
Axel Fischer	Member of Bundestag, CDU	Allegedly received money from Azerbaijan in exchange for voting for pro-Azerbaijani motions and resolutions. Fischer rejected the allegations as false.	Parliamentary immunity lifted, March 2021. Investigation continuing at Munich state attorney office.
Mark Hauptmann	Ex-Member of Bundestag, CDU	Alleged irregular lobbying assistance for Azerbaijan.	Resigned from Bundestag March 2021.
Hans-Jürgen Irmer	Member of Bundestag, CDU	Alleged use of influence to procure mask order for Hesse firm for Berlin health ministry. Possible compensation from placing of advertisement in a newspaper run by Irmer.	Denies wrongdoing.
Armin Laschet	North Rhine-Westphalia Prime Minister, CDU Chairman, Member of NRW parliament	Laschet's son Johannes allegedly helped organise uncontested (non-tendered) November 2020 procurement from Van Laack textile firm (for which he worked as a model) of 1.25m masks with NRW logo for NRW police force.	Order cancelled December 2020 because of doubts over procedure. New tender organised. Van Laack took part in tender, in March 2021 announces action for damages if order not confirmed.
Nikolas Löbel	Ex-Member of Bundestag, CDU	Admits receiving €250,000 commission for procuring Chinese masks for Baden-Württemberg firm in April 2020, using parliamentary connections.	Resigned from Bundestag March 2021, with immediate effect, will leave politics.
Georg Nüßlein	Member of Bundestag, CSU, Ex-Deputy Chair, CDU/CSU parliamentary grouping	Alleged non-tax payment on receipt of €660,000 commission via a Liechtenstein bank account of an offshore Caribbean firm for procuring protective masks for Bavarian government and Berlin health ministry.	Denies wrongdoing. Munich state attorney office conducting formal investigation. Resigned from CDU/CSU grouping March 2021.
Jens Spahn	Health Minister, Member of Bundestag, CDU. Armin Laschet's running mate in CDU's January 2021 chairmanship election	Allegedly met a dozen party donors in Leipzig for private fund-raising dinner, 20 October 2020, defying pandemic rules on household gatherings. Tested Covid-positive on 21 October 2020.	TV interview on 20 October 2020 pointing to infection threat from unauthorised gatherings. Spahn's parliamentary office confirms 'private dinner', claims rules upheld.
		Purchased villa in summer 2020 in prosperous Berlin suburb of Dahlen, allegedly with loan from Westmünsterland savings bank where Spahn was supervisory board member in 2009-15.	Denies receiving favourable conditions. Takes legal action to prevent journalists from probing details of purchase from official Berlin registration agency.
Karin Strenz	Member of Bundestag, CDU	Alleged receipt of payments from Azerbaijan for parliamentary influence.	Denies wrongdoing. Investigation continuing at Frankfurt state attorney office.
Klaus-Peter Willsch	Member of Bundestag, CDU	Celebrated 60th birthday in February 2021 with home party, allegedly breaking rules on isolation. No suspicion of any financial wrongdoing.	Admits 'didn't set a good example' but denies breaking any rules.