

# Request for the waiver of parliamentary immunity of Bruno Gollnisch

2010/2284(IMM) - 10/05/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided by 511 votes to 56, with 65 abstentions, to **waive the immunity of Bruno GOLLNISCH** (NI, FR).

The request to waive immunity follows a request by a French public prosecutor to bring Bruno Gollnisch before the Court of First Instance, the Appeal Court and the Court of Cassation, so that a complaint alleging incitement to racial hatred can be investigated. More specifically, the waiver of the immunity of Bruno Gollnisch relates to an alleged offence of incitement to racial hatred as a result of a press release issued on 3 October 2008 by the Rhône-Alpes Region 'Front National' Group, of which Bruno Gollnisch was President.

Mr Gollnisch asks the European Parliament to defend his immunity as Member of the Parliament because the case in question concerns, in his view, the issue of freedom of expression of his political opinions. However, given that the proceedings concern an offence allegedly committed in France, whose citizenship Bruno Gollnisch enjoyed at the material time, the defence of *fumus persecutionis* i.e. a sufficiently serious and precise suspicion that the case has been brought with the intention of causing political damage to the Member does not hold. Parliament believes the case does not come within the scope of Bruno Gollnisch's political activities **as Member of the European Parliament**. It concerns instead activities of a purely regional and local nature of Bruno Gollnisch as regional councillor for Rhône-Alpes, a mandate to which he was elected by direct universal suffrage and which is distinct from that of Member of the European Parliament.

As a result, the European Parliament has decided to waive the parliamentary immunity of Bruno Gollnisch.