

Request for the defence of parliamentary immunity of Bruno Gollnisch

2010/2097(IMM) - 10/05/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided **not to defend the immunity and privileges of Bruno GOLLNISCH** (NI, FR).

The request concerns the judicial investigation of an action and claim for compensation (*plainte avec constitution de partie civile*) brought by the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (hereinafter, the LICRA) on 26 January 2009 against an unnamed person for incitement to racial hatred (see [IMM/2010/2284](#)) in view of remarks made in a party (National Front) press release in the Rhône-Alpes Regional Council (FR). 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 not to defend the parliamentary immunity of Mr Gollnisch.