Request for the waiver of the immunity of Sotirios Zarianopoulos

2015/2015(IMM) - 24/06/2015 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to waive the immunity of **Sotirios ZARIANOPOULOS (NI, EL).**

Parliament recalled that the deputy public prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Greece requested the waiver of the immunity of Sotirios Zarianopoulos, Member of the European Parliament, as part of an investigation concerning an alleged crime.

Sotirios Zarianopoulos is accused of having threatened physical violence and illegally entered the premises of Greek public television channel ERT-3 on 4 March 2010 to interrupt the midday news bulletin and read out a statement.

The alleged crime clearly has no connection with the position of Sotirios Zarianopoulos as a Member of the European Parliament, given that it relates to action carried out by the Greek trade union PAME and that Sotirios Zarianopoulos was not a Member of the European Parliament at the time the offence was committed. The criminal proceedings do not concern any opinion expressed or vote cast in the performance of the duties of a Member of the European Parliament for the purposes of Article 8 of Protocol No 7 on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union.

There is no reason to assume that the intention underlying the criminal proceedings is to damage a Member’s political activity (*fumus persecutionis*), given that the prosecution was initiated a number of years before the Member took up his post.

Therefore, Parliament decided to waive the parliamentary immunity of **Sotirios Zarianopoulos**.