Request for the waiver of the immunity of Rolandas Paksas

2016/2070(IMM) - 14/06/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to waive the immunity of **Rolandas PAKSAS**(EFDD, LT).

As a reminder, the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Lithuania requested the waiver of the parliamentary immunity of a Member of the European Parliament, Rolandas Paksas, in connection with criminal investigations.

The request relates to suspicions against Rolandas Paksas of having agreed to accept a bribe.

The purpose of the Prosecutor-General's request to the European Parliament to waive the parliamentary immunity of Rolandas Paksas is to make it possible to notify him of the allegations made against him, to interview him as a suspect, to take other measures restricting his freedom under Lithuanian law, and to continue the criminal proceedings brought against him with a view to obtaining a final judgment in this case in accordance with national law.

Parliament recalled that **parliamentary immunity is not a Member's personal privilege** but a **guarantee of the independence of Parliament as a whole** and of its Members. The purpose being to protect Parliament and its Members from legal proceedings in relation to activities carried out in the performance of parliamentary duties and which cannot be separated from those duties by avoiding damaging a Member's political activity and thus Parliament's independence (*fumus persecutionis*).

Given that there is **no reason** to suspect that the proceedings relating to Rolandas Paksas are motivated by an intent to damage his political activity as a Member of the European Parliament, **Parliament decided to waive the immunity of Rolandas Paksas**.