

Request for the waiver of the immunity of Ioannis Lagos

2022/2019(IMM) - 08/03/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Legal Affairs adopted the report by Andrzej HALICKI (EPP, PL) on the request for waiver of the immunity of Ioannis Lagos.

As a reminder, the Public Prosecutor at the Athens Court of First Instance requested the waiver of the immunity of Ioannis Lagos, Member of the European Parliament elected for Greece, in order to launch criminal proceedings against him on the grounds of a message posted by Ioannis Lagos on the social media platform Twitter.

On 6 December 2020, Ioannis Lagos published on his Twitter account a message, alongside a photograph of a Jewish monument in Larissa, containing allegedly racist comments and allegedly constituting an indirectly encouraging behaviour that might result in acts of discrimination, hatred or violence.

On 8 December 2020, the Greek Observatory of the Helsinki Accords filed a complaint against Ioannis Lagos on account of his tweet.

The message and picture in question were not published on Ioannis Lagos' Twitter account linked to his official profile as a Member of the European Parliament.

Members consider that the alleged offence does not concern opinions or votes cast by Ioannis Lagos in the exercise of his duties as a Member of the European Parliament. Moreover, in the present case, the European Parliament has not been able to establish that there was *fumus persecutionis*, that is to say, factual evidence that the legal proceedings in question were instituted with the intention of harming the political activity of the Member and, consequently, of the European Parliament.

In the light of these considerations, the committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament decide to **waive the immunity** of Ioannis Lagos.