Basic information

2015/2015(IMM) IMM - Members' immunity	Procedure completed
Request for the waiver of the immunity of Sotirios Zarianopoulos **Subject** 8.40.01.03 Members' immunity	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	JURI Legal Affairs		

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/06/2015	Vote in committee		
18/06/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0191/2015	Summary
24/06/2015	Decision by Parliament	T8-0234/2015	Summary
24/06/2015	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/06/2015	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2015/2015(IMM)
Procedure type	IMM - Members' immunity
Procedure subtype	Waiver of immunity
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 6
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/8/02601

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0191/2015	18/06/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0234/2015	24/06/2015	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

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**.

Request for the waiver of the immunity of Sotirios Zarianopoulos

2015/2015(IMM) - 18/06/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Legal Affairs adopted the report by Laura FERRARA (EFDD, IT) in which it recommended the European Parliament to waive the immunity of **Sotirios ZARIANOPOULOS (NI, EL).**

Members 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.

In accordance with the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, an opinion expressed by a Member of the European Parliament in the performance of his or her duties is defined as being a subjective appraisal having a direct, obvious connection with the performance of those parliamentary duties, but the alleged actions of Sotirios Zarianopoulos cannot be included in that definition.

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, the committee recommended the European Parliament to waive the parliamentary immunity of **Sotirios Zarianopoulos**.