Basic information

2016/2015(IMM) IMM - Members' immunity	Procedure completed
Request for the defence of the privileges and immunities of Rosario Crocetta **Subject** 8.40.01.03 Members' immunity	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	JURI Legal Affairs	HAUTALA Heidi (Verts/ALE)	28/01/2016

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/07/2016	Vote in committee		
15/07/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0230/2016	Summary
13/09/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0324/2016	Summary
13/09/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/09/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2016/2015(IMM)
Procedure type	IMM - Members' immunity
Procedure subtype	Defence of immunity
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 7
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/8/05584

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0230/2016	15/07/2016	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0324/2016	13/09/2016	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Request for the defence of the privileges and immunities of Rosario Crocetta

2016/2015(IMM) - 13/09/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament decided to defend the privileges and immunities of Rosario CROCETTA (former MEP, S&D, IT).

Parliament recalled that he requested the defence of his parliamentary immunity in connection with criminal proceedings pending before the third Criminal Chamber of the Court of Palermo. He is alleged to have made defamatory statements during a political debate (statements concerning fake public procurement and links to the mafia).

Parliament recalled that according to Article 8 of Protocol No 7, Members of the European Parliament may not be subject to any form of inquiry, detention or legal proceedings in respect of opinions expressed or votes cast by them in the performance of their duties. Such immunity must, to the extent that it seeks to protect the freedom of expression and independence of Members of the European Parliament, be considered as an **absolute immunity** barring any judicial proceedings in respect of an opinion expressed or a vote cast in the exercise of parliamentary duties.

Given that the statements by Rosario Crocetta were made when he was a Member of the European Parliament and that he was always very involved in the fight against organised crime, including within the European Parliament, **Parliament decided to defend his privileges and immunities**.

Request for the defence of the privileges and immunities of Rosario Crocetta

2016/2015(IMM) - 15/07/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Legal Affairs adopted the report by Heidi HAUTALA (Greens/EFA, FI) on the request for defence of the privileges and immunities of Rosario CROCETTA (former MEP, S&D, IT).

Members recalled that he requested the defence of his parliamentary immunity in connection with criminal proceedings pending before the third Criminal Chamber of the Court of Palermo. He is alleged to have made defamatory statements during a political debate (statements concerning fake public procurement and links to the mafia).

According to Article 8 of Protocol No 7, Members of the European Parliament may not be subject to any form of inquiry, detention or legal proceedings in respect of opinions expressed or votes cast by them in the performance of their duties. Such immunity must, to the extent that it seeks to protect the freedom of expression and independence of Members of the European Parliament, be considered as an **absolute immunity** barring any judicial proceedings in respect of an opinion expressed or a vote cast in the exercise of parliamentary duties.

Rosario Crocetta was a Member of the European Parliament when he made the statements in question.

It is uncontested that, when he was a Member of the European Parliament and, in particular at the time of the statements in question, Mr Crocetta was very much involved, at a political level, in the fight against organised crime and its influence on politics and economy. He has always warned against the covert, but dangerous ramifications of organised crime, as witness his contribution to parliamentary work. Having regard to content of the statements, Mr Crocetta’s allegations are, therefore, capable of presenting a direct and obvious link with his activities as a Member of the European Parliament.

Therefore, the committee recommends **the European Parliament to defend the privileges and immunities of Rosario Crocetta.**