

Procedure file

Basic information		
IMM - Members' immunity	2009/2020(IMM)	Procedure completed
Request for the defence of parliamentary immunity of Umberto Bossi		
Subject 8.40.01.03 Members' immunity		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs		16/03/2009
		PPE-DE LEHNE Klaus-Heiner	

Key events			
21/04/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
23/04/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0269/2009	
05/05/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/05/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0338/2009	Summary
05/05/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2009/2020(IMM)
Procedure type	IMM - Members' immunity
Procedure subtype	Waiver of immunity
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 7
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/6/74275

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0269/2009	23/04/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0338/2009	05/05/2009	EP	Summary

The Committee on Legal Affairs unanimously adopted the report drawn up by Klaus-Heiner LEHNE (EPP-ED, DE) on the request for defence of the immunity and privileges of Umberto Bossi (former Italian MEP), considering that the immunity of Mr Bossi should be defended, for the following reasons:

At the sitting of 9 March 2009, the President of Parliament announced that he had received a request for the defence of the parliamentary immunity of Umberto Bossi by letter of 24 February 2009. The request relates to the investigation concerning Mr. Umberto Bossi in connection with an indictable offence pursuant to Article 61(10) and 612, paragraphs I and II, of the Italian Criminal Code, which is pending before the District Court's Public Prosecutor's Office of Verbania. The investigation relates to the fact that during an electoral meeting held in Verbania on 6 April 2008, Umberto Bossi referred to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Giuliano Amato, in quite harsh terms, not to say insulting, in connection with the electoral procedure.

Given that Article 9 of the Protocol on privileges and immunities provides that Members of the European Parliament have absolute immunity from legal proceedings 'in respect of opinions expressed [...] in the performance of their duties' and that, according to the parliamentary committee's analysis, Mr Bossi merely commented on facts in the public domain which had an Italian and European political dimension, MEPs consider that the immunity of Mr Bossi should be defended.

The Committee on Legal Affairs therefore decided to call on the European Parliament to defend the immunity of Umberto Bossi.

Request for the defence of parliamentary immunity of Umberto Bossi

The European Parliament decided by 563 votes to 13, with 13 abstentions, to defend the immunity and privileges of Umberto Bossi (former Italian MEP).

Umberto Bossi is being investigated in Italy for an offence deemed to be serious under the Italian Criminal Code. The investigation relates, in particular, to statements made by Mr Bossi towards Mr Giuliano Amato (the then Minister of Internal Affairs) in connection with the electoral procedure. Following the opinion of its Committee on Legal Affairs, the Parliament considers that Mr Bossi merely commented on facts in the public domain which had an Italian and European political dimension.

Therefore, the Parliament decided to defend the immunity and privileges of Umberto Bossi.