

Procedure file

Basic information	
IMM - Members' immunity	2012/2326(IMM)
Request for the waiver of parliamentary immunity of Hans-Peter Martin	
Subject 8.40.01.03 Members' immunity	
Procedure completed	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs	PPE ZWIEFKA Tadeusz	18/12/2012

Key events			
18/03/2013	Vote in committee		
22/03/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary	A7-0106/2013	Summary
16/04/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/04/2013	Decision by Parliament	T7-0106/2013	Summary
16/04/2013	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2012/2326(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 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/7/11536

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A7-0106/2013	22/03/2013	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0106/2013	16/04/2013	EP	Summary

Request for the waiver of parliamentary immunity of Hans-Peter Martin

The Committee on Legal Affairs unanimously adopted the report by Tadeusz ZWIEFKA (EPP, PL), and called on the European Parliament to waive the immunity of Hans-Peter MARTIN (NI, AT).

Parliament decided on 13 September 2011 to waive the immunity of Hans-Peter MARTIN following a request from the Vienna Public Prosecutors Office, forwarded on 29 April 2011 in connection with alleged offences relating to misappropriation of party funding, covered by Section 2(b) of the Law on Political Parties.

The Vienna Public Prosecutors Office has now requested an extended waiver of Mr MARTINs immunity, in order to be able to carry out preliminary investigations against him on the grounds of additional accusations that have been made, in particular concerning an alleged case of fraud, under Sections 146 and 147(3) of the Austrian Criminal Code.

The committee recalls that under Article 9 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union, Members of the European Parliament enjoy in the territory of their own State the immunities accorded to members of their parliament. It also recalls that under Article 57(2) of the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law, Members of the National Council (Nationalrat) may only be arrested on the grounds of a criminal offence with the consent of the National Council except where they are caught in the act of committing a crime and searches of the houses of members of the National Council likewise requires the consent of the National Council.

Further to Article 57(3) of the Austrian Federal Constitutional Law, no official action on account of a punishable offence may be taken against members of the National Council without the National Councils consent unless that offence is manifestly not connected with the political activity of the member in question. Members consider that the immunity of Hans-Peter MARTIN must be waived if the additional investigations against him are to proceed. Hans-Peter MARTIN was heard by the European Parliaments Committee on Legal Affairs.

The committee recommends that the European Parliament should decide to waive the immunity of Hans-Peter MARTIN.

Request for the waiver of parliamentary immunity of Hans-Peter Martin

The European Parliament decided to waive the parliamentary immunity of Hans-Peter MARTIN (NI, AT).

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Under Article 9 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union, Members of the European Parliament enjoy in the territory of their own State the immunities accorded to members of their parliament. It is appropriate, in this case, to refer to Article 57 of the Austrian Bundesverfassungsgesetz (Federal Constitutional Law). This Article (and more particularly Art 57(2) stipulates that Members of the National Council (Nationalrat) may only be arrested on the grounds of a criminal offence with the consent of the National Council except where they are caught in the act of committing a crime and searches of the houses of members of the National Council likewise requires the consent of the National Council. It is, accordingly, necessary to waive Hans-Peter MARTINs immunity.

In order to enable the Austrian authorities to pursue additional investigations and to take legal action against Hans-Peter MARTIN, Parliament has therefore decided to waive his immunity.