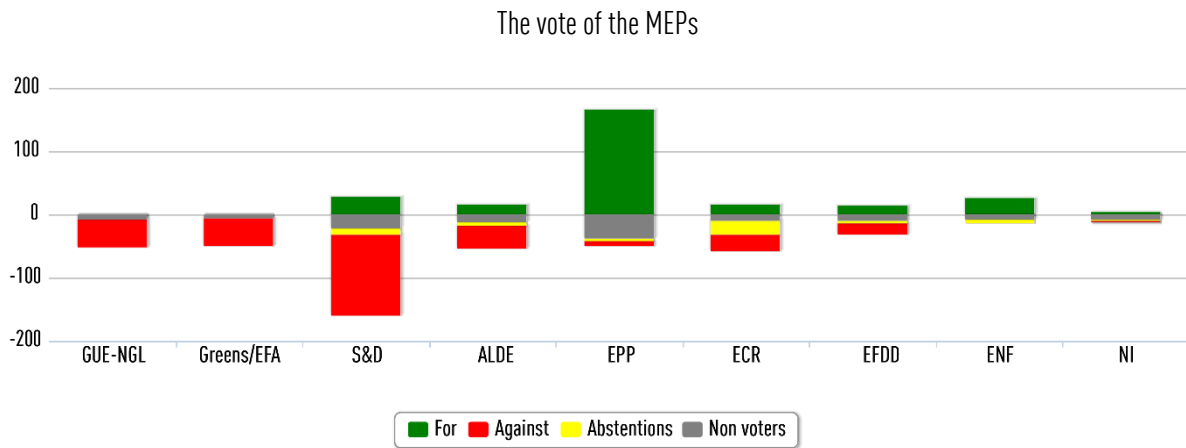


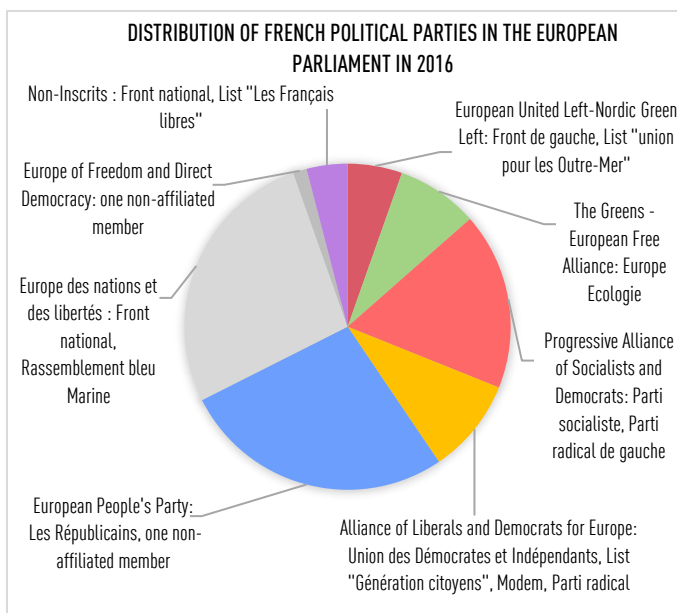
Should Employers to ban specific kinds of symbols that are claimed to be of a religious nature?



Two months after the Nice attacks, the MEPs voted on an amendment defending the rights of the employers to ban religious symbols on the workplace whenever these symbols violate the rights of women or can lead to security problems. This vote is quite important given the French context: France had already banned women to wear headscarves in public schools, as well as the burka and the *niqab* (the veils that cover women's faces).

In the case of the European Parliament, the vote on this amendment was pretty tight. The amendment was rejected by a slim margin of 5%. The amendment was supported by EPP and ENF, whereas ALDE, S&D, the Greens and GUE-NGL opposed the ban. Interestingly, ECR and EFDD were split, although a majority of their MEPs voted against the proposal.

Also in this case, the position of French MEPs is drastically different from the ones of their colleagues from other countries, as a large majority of them supported the ban. The ban on religious symbols at the workplace was opposed by the French Greens, Jean Arthuis from the Union of Democrats and Independents and Younous Omarjee from the Alliance of the Overseas.



All the other MEPs voted in favor of the ban, with some few exception within the political parties: the Republicans Nadine Morano, Patrick Le Hyaric from the Left Front and 3 MEPs from the Socialist Party (Gilles Pargneaux, Isabelle Thomas and Vincent Peillon). All these 5 "rebels" voted against the ban.

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The vote of MEPs elected in France*

For

Jean-Marie CAVADA <i>Citizens' Generation</i>	Marielle DE SARNEZ <i>Democratic Movement</i>	Nathalie GRIESBECK <i>Democratic Movement</i>	Dominique RIQUET <i>Radical Party - UDI</i>	Joëlle BERGERON	Marie-Christine ARNAUTU <i>National Front</i>	Nicolas BAY <i>National Front</i>	Dominique BILDE <i>National Front</i>	Marie-Christine BOUTONNET <i>National Front</i>	Mireille D'ORNANO <i>National Front</i>
ALDE	ALDE	ALDE	ALDE	EFDD	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF
Edouard FERRAND <i>National Front</i>	Sylvie GODDYN <i>National Front</i>	Jean-Francois JALKH <i>National Front</i>	Gilles LEBRETON <i>National Front</i>	Philippe LOISEAU <i>National Front</i>	Dominique MARTIN <i>National Front</i>	Joëlle MÉLIN <i>National Front</i>	Bernard MONOT <i>National Front</i>	Sophie MONTEL <i>National Front</i>	Florian PHILIPPOT <i>National Front</i>
ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF	ENF
Jean-Luc SCHAFFHAUSER <i>Bleu Marine Movement</i>	Mylène TROSZCZYNSKI <i>National Front</i>	Michèle ALLIOT-MARIE <i>The Republicans</i>	Arnaud DANJEAN <i>The Republicans</i>	Rachida DATI <i>The Republicans</i>	Angélique DELAHAYE <i>The Republicans</i>	Françoise GROSSETÊTE <i>The Republicans</i>	Brice HORTEFEUX <i>The Republicans</i>	Philippe JUVIN <i>The Republicans</i>	Alain LAMASSOURE <i>The Republicans</i>
ENF	ENF	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP
Jérôme LAVRILLEUX	Constance LE GRIP <i>The Republicans</i>	Elisabeth MORIN-CHARTIER <i>The Republicans</i>	Renaud MUSELIER <i>The Republicans</i>	Maurice PONGA <i>The Republicans</i>	Franck PROUST <i>The Republicans</i>	Tokia SAIFI <i>The Republicans</i>	Anne SANDER <i>The Republicans</i>	Jean-Luc MÉLENCHON <i>Left Front</i>	Aymeric CHAUPRADE <i>The Free French</i>
EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	EPP	GUE/NGL	NI
Bruno GOLLNISCH <i>National Front</i>	Eric ANDRIEU <i>Socialist Party</i>	Guillaume BALAS <i>Socialist Party</i>	Pervenche BERÈS <i>Socialist Party</i>	Jean-Paul DENANTOT <i>Socialist Party</i>	Sylvie GUILLAUME <i>Socialist Party</i>	Emmanuel MAUREL <i>Socialist Party</i>	Christine REVAULT D'ALLONNES BONNEFOY <i>Socialist Party</i>	Virginie ROZIÈRE <i>Left Radical Party</i>	
NI	S&D	S&D	S&D	S&D	S&D	S&D	S&D	S&D	

Against

Jean ARTHUIS <i>Union of Democrats and Independants</i>	Nadine MORANO <i>The Republicans</i>	José BOVÉ <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Karima DELLI <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Pascal DURAND <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Yannick JADOT <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Eva JOLY <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Michèle RIVASI <i>Europe Ecology - The Greens</i>	Patrick LE HYARIC <i>Left Front</i>	Younous QMARJEE <i>The Union for Overseas Territories</i>
ALDE	EPP	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	Greens/EFA	GUE/NGL	GUE/NGL
Gilles PARGNEAUX <i>Socialist Party</i>	Vincent PEILLON <i>Socialist Party</i>	Isabelle THOMAS <i>Socialist Party</i>							
S&D	S&D	S&D							

Absent

Steeve BRIOIS <i>National Front</i>	Marine LE PEN <i>National Front</i>	Alain CADEC <i>The Republicans</i>	Michel DANTIN <i>The Republicans</i>	Marc JOULAUD <i>The Republicans</i>	Jean-Marie LE PEN <i>National Front</i>	Edouard MARTIN <i>Socialist Party</i>
ENF	ENF	EPP	EPP	EPP	NI	S&D

Didn't vote

Sylvie GOULARD <i>Democratic Movement</i>	Louis ALIOT <i>National Front</i>	Marie-Christine VERGIAT <i>Left Front</i>	Louis-Joseph MANSOUR <i>Socialist Party</i>
ALDE	ENF	GUE/NGL	S&D

Documented absence

Robert ROCHEFORT <i>Democratic Movement</i>
ALDE