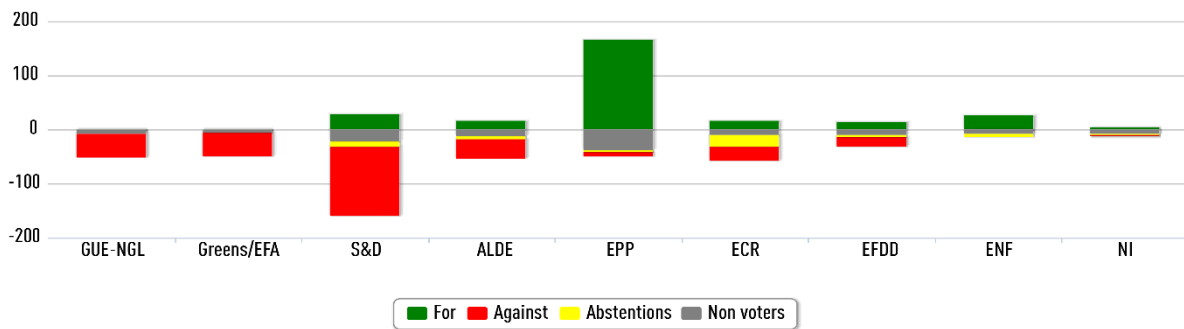


Should Employers to ban specific kinds of symbols that are claimed to be of a religious nature?

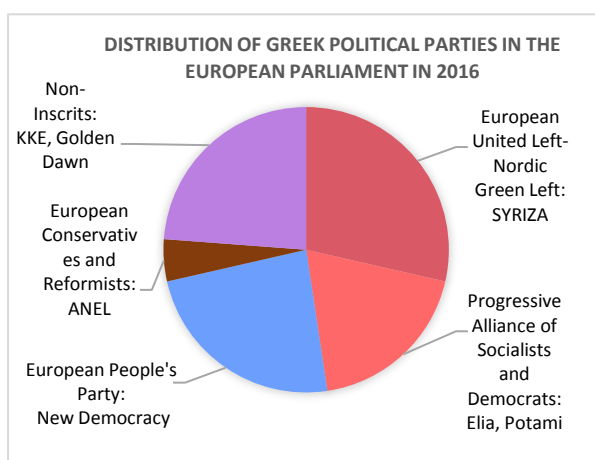
The vote of the MEPs



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.

The attitude of the Greek MEPs was surprising as half of them decided not to vote on this issue. This means that, despite them being present during the vote, they refrained from adopting a position of any sort. This was not the case of centre-left MEPs, who voted against the ban, with the only exception of Eva Kaili (PASOK), who abstained. Against the ban, there were also SYRIZA's members Dimitrios Papadimoulis and Kostas Chrysogonos, whereas Kostadinka Kuneva and Stelios Kouloglou did not vote.



The only Greek support for the ban came from New Democracy, although 2 members of the centre-right party did not vote: Manolis Kefalogiannis and Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi. Also the Conservative independent Notis Marias did not cast any vote. Finally, none of the non-attached members, coming from the Communist Party as well as the Golden Dawn took part in the vote.

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

The vote of MEPs elected in Greece*

For

Georgios KYRTSOS



New Democracy

EPP

Maria SPYRAKI



New Democracy

EPP

Theodoros ZAGORAKIS



New Democracy

EPP

Against

Kostas CHRYSOGONOS



Coalition of the Radical Left

GUE/NGL

Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS



Coalition of the Radical Left

GUE/NGL

Sofia SAKORAFI



Independent

GUE/NGL

Nikos ANDROULAKIS



Panhellenic Socialist Movement - Olive tree

S&D

Giorgos GRAMMATIKAKIS



The River

S&D

Miltiadis KYRKOS



The River

S&D

Eva KAILI



Panhellenic Socialist Movement - Olive Tree

S&D

Abstain

Konstantinos PAPADAKIS



Communist Party of Greece

NI

Absent

Didn't vote

Notis MARIAS



Independent

ECR

Manolis KEFALOGIANNIS



New Democracy

EPP

Elissavet VOZEMBERG-VRIONIDI



New Democracy

EPP

Nikolaos CHOUNTIS



Popular Unity

GUE/NGL

Stelios KOULOLOU



Coalition of the Radical Left

GUE/NGL

Kostadinka KUNEVA



Coalition of the Radical Left

GUE/NGL

Georgios EPITIDEIOS



Popular Association - Golden Dawn

NI

Lampros FOUNTOULIS



Popular Association - Golden Dawn

NI

Eleftherios SYNADINOS



Popular Association - Golden Dawn

NI

Sotirios ZARIANOPOULOS



Communist Party of Greece

NI