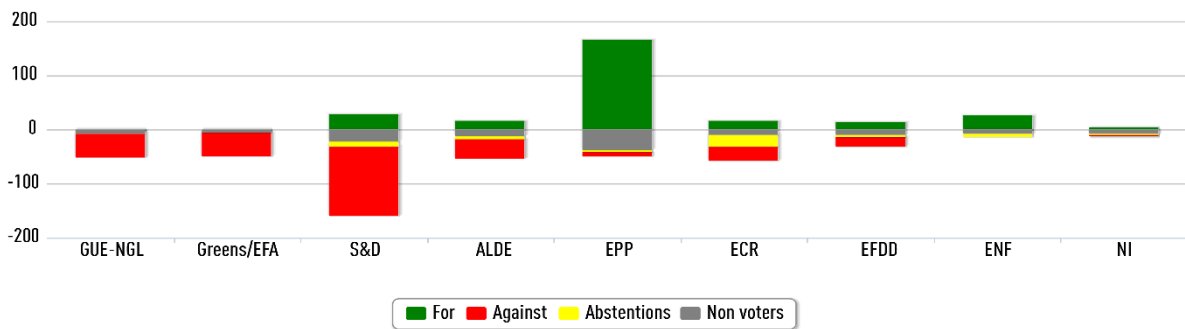


## Should Employers to ban specific kinds of symbols that are claimed to be of a religious nature?

The vote of the MEPs

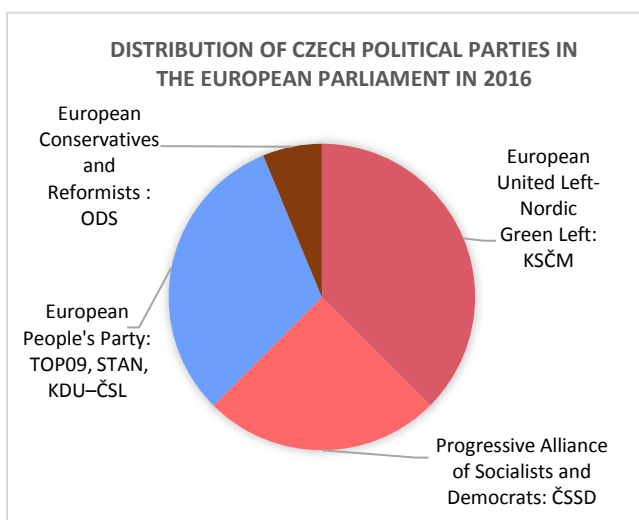


Two months after the Nice attacks, the MEPs voted on an amendment defending the rights of the employers to ban religious symbols on the workplace whenever these symbols violate the rights of women or can lead to security problems. This vote is quite important given the French context: France had already 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.

Despite the rejection of the amendments by the plenary, Czech MEPs were mostly in favor of the ban with 13 votes in favor of it. This also means that Czech MEPs did not follow their groups' colleagues in their opposition to the ban.

In fact, the members of Civic Democratic Party, TOP 09, Democratic Union- Czechoslovak People's Party voted differently from their European political groups and supported the right of the employers to limit the wearing of religious symbols. In a similar way the EFDD member from the Free Citizens Party, Petr Mach voted in favor.



Even more striking, none of the members of the Czech Social Democratic Party followed their political group in voting against the right to ban: Pavel Poc from the Czech Social Democratic Party voted in favor of the ban, whereas Jan Keller and Olga Sehnalová abstained. The only Czech opposing the ban were the members of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia.

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

The vote of MEPs elected in Czech Republic\*

For

Dita CHARANZOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Martina DLABAJOVÁ



ANO 2011

ALDE

Petr JEŽEK



ANO 2011

ALDE

Pavel TELIČKA



ANO 2011

ALDE

Evžen TOŠENOVSKÝ



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Jan ZAHRADIL



Civic Democratic Party

ECR

Petr MACH



Party of Free Citizens

EFDD

Luděk NIEDERMAYER



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Stanislav POLČÁK



Mayors and Independents

EPP

Jiří POSPÍŠIL



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Michaela ŠOJĐROVÁ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Pavel SVOBODA



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

EPP

Pavel POC



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Against

Jaromír KOHLÍČEK



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Kateřina KONEČNÁ



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Jiří MAŠTÁLKA



Communist Party of Bohemia and  
Moravia

GUE/NGL

Abstain

Jaromír ŠTĚTINA



Top 09 and Mayors

EPP

Jan KELLER



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Olga SEHNALOVÁ



Czech Social Democratic Party

S&D

Absent

Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ



Christian and Democratic Union –  
Czechoslovak People's Party

Miroslav POČHE



Czech Social Democratic Party