

CHRISTIAN MIESCH

Parliamentary immunity lifted in alleged corruption case

SEP 12, 2018 - 14:57



Miesch (centre) was given a friendly farewell in parliament in 2015.

(Keystone)

A former Swiss parliamentarian has been stripped of his immunity, paving the way for a legal investigation into corruption allegations over lobbying efforts by Kazakhstan.

It is a first in the parliamentary history of modern-day Switzerland.

A committee of the House of Representatives on Wednesday followed the Senate committee, lifting the immunity from prosecution of Christian Miesch, who sat in [parliament](#) for the rightwing Swiss People's Party until 2015.

He is suspected of accepting money – CHF4,635 (\$4,760) - from a lobbyist in return for trying to serve the interests of Kazakhstan in parliament.

Initially, the committee had refused to move on Miesch, arguing his involvement was not significant enough to justify lifting his immunity.

Miesch has denied any wrongdoing.

Two other parliamentarians suspected of passing on confidential documents to a Kazakh lobbyist and accepting a paid trip were also involved in the case but did not have their immunity lifted.

As for the lobbyist, Thomas Borer, a former Swiss ambassador, he also faces a criminal investigation.

+ The Kazakh connection in Swiss parliament

The Swiss chapter of the non-governmental [☞ Transparency International](#) group welcomed Wednesday's decision by parliament. It said the allegations are serious and deserve a thorough examination.

swissinfo.ch with SDA-ATS; urs

SWI

SWI swissinfo.ch, a branch of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation

SRG SSR