



NEWS REPORT

Update of flash report nr:	Update 386-BE-42 “Maths teacher allowed by Court to wear headscarf”
Date:	18 June 2010
Expert:	Emmanuelle Bribosia
Title:	Maths teacher dismissed by the city of Charleroi
Country:	Belgium
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	The city of Charleroi dismissed the math teacher who wanted to wear the headscarf
Ground of discrimination:	Religion/belief
Source:	Other
Field:	Education
Legislative provisions:	Decree of the French-speaking Community of 17 December 2003 organising the neutrality inhering in subsidised public schools (<i>Décret de la Communauté française du 17 décembre 2003 organisant la neutralité inhérente à l'enseignement officiel subventionné</i>).

Content

Case: Following the Court of Appeal of Mons’ decision of 10 March 2010 (see FR n° 36 “Maths teacher allowed by Court to wear headscarf”), the Municipality Council of Charleroi adopted on 30 March 2010 a regulation prohibiting teachers to wear any visible religious, political or philosophical symbols while in the schools’ premises.

The maths teacher allowed by the Court of Appeal of Mons to continue teaching with a headscarf lodged an emergency action seeking for suspensory effects of the abovementioned regulation by the Council of State. In its decision n° 202.852 of 7 April 2010, the Council of State held that the requirement regarding the existence of a risk of a serious harm was not met and it rejected the appeal for lack of emergency (see Update FR n° 36 “Maths teacher allowed by Court to wear headscarf” – 30 April 2010).

As each party stood its ground, (the city of Charleroi prohibited teachers to wear any visible religious, political or philosophical symbols at school, while the math teacher wanted to wear the headscarf at school), the city of



Charleroi dismissed the math teacher on 8 June 2010, on the ground that she did not respect the city of Charleroi's decision (*Règlement d'ordre intérieur*).

In our opinion, an action will be launched against the dismissal decision, but we have no precise information regarding this. Nothing has appeared in the press until now and we could not obtain any information directly from the math teacher's lawyers.

Internet link source and additional information:

Press release, Le Soir, 9 June 2010