

NEWS REPORT

Date:	15 June 2011
Expert:	Emmanuelle Bribosia
Title:	The federal Act prohibiting “the wearing of the <i>burqa</i> and the <i>niqab</i> ” in the public sphere adopted in Belgium
Country:	Belgium
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	After a year of a chaotic legislative process, the federal Act prohibiting “the wearing of the <i>burqa</i> and the <i>niqab</i> ” in the public sphere finally adopted in Belgium
Ground of discrimination:	Religion/belief, ethnicity.
Source:	Legislation
Field:	Areas accessible to the public
Legislative provisions:	Bill aiming at prohibiting the wearing of any clothing totally, or principally, hiding the face, adopted on 28 April 2011 (Doc 53 0219/005)

Content

Law/political development: One year ago a legislative proposal modifying the Criminal Code, establishing the prohibition to walk around in areas accessible to the public with one’s face, totally or partly, masked or hidden, in such a way that one is no longer identifiable (See FR n° 946 & 947), was adopted but did not enter into force because of the political crisis and the dissolution of the federal Parliament.

On 28 September 2010, a new legislative proposal, with the same wording as the one adopted during the spring 2010, was submitted to the Parliament’s House of Representatives by the French right wing party (MR). The Bill was adopted almost unanimously by the lower House of the federal Parliament on 28 April 2011 (except Eva Brems for the Green party, “Ecolo-Groen!”). The higher House of the federal Parliament had 15 days to bring up the draft law (until the 16th of May 2011), but did not do so. As a consequence, the bill is now adopted and referred to the King for Royal Assent (a merely formal procedure) before entering into force.



Internet link source and additional information: www.lachambre.be