

**Věra Jourová**  
**Vice-President, Commissioner for Values and Transparency**  
**European Commission**  
**Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium**

**12 July 2024**

**Subject:** RE: Protect Media Freedom in Italy

Dear Vice-President Jourová,

We would like to thank you very much for your response to our letter. We welcome the Commission's efforts to safeguard and promote media freedom and media pluralism, not least through the Media Freedom Act, the Anti-SLAPP Directive and within the framework of the annual Rule of Law Reports.

However, since our initial correspondence in May 2024, the situation facing journalists and media outlets in Italy has worsened.

The government's interference in RAI has been consistently growing, further undermining its independence. The recent decision to terminate the programme "Chesarà...", anchored by Serena Bortone, the journalist who defied editorial intervention and read Antonio Scurati's anti-fascist speech on Italy's Liberation Day, is further confirmation of the government's efforts to censor independent and critical journalists.

Moreover, the ongoing discussions about the potential acquisition of the Agenzia Giornalistica Italiana (AGI), one of Italy's most important news agencies, by MP Antonio Angelucci jeopardise its independence, while the alleged political interference from Italy's Minister of Culture Gennaro Sangiuliano in RAI management, especially via his close relationship with RAI Director Paolo Petrecca, demonstrate RAI's submission to the line of the government.

These are just a few examples, which showcase the climate of intimidation journalists face in Italy.

Has the Commission investigated these disturbing developments? Has the Italian government been asked to provide any explanation with regards to the above-mentioned actions?

The above developments take place as the Commission has delayed the publication of the annual Rule of Law Report, which we hoped would cast the spotlight on the Italian government's attacks on media freedom in the country. The decision to delay the Report's publication until after the European Parliament is expected to vote for the European Commission President is further cause for concern.

Preserving the independence of the press is of the utmost importance for a functioning democracy. For this reason, we reiterate our request to launch an investigation into the Italian government's attempts to capture media and public information, in line with the standards of the European Media Freedom Act and the EU's fundamental values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU).

We are at your disposal and remain available to assist in efforts to protect media independence and to defend democracy in Europe.

Yours sincerely,

European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)  
European Movement International (EMI)  
Federazione Nazionale Stampa Italiana (FNSI)  
International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

Media Diversity Institute Global (MDI Global)  
OBC Transeuropa