

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3789/05
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to the Commission

Subject: Freedom of information and expression in Italy

On 15 September 2005 the deputy public prosecutor Marco Dinapoli and the investigating magistrate Chiara Civitano, of the Bari Tribunal, decreed the precautionary suspension, for two months, of the broadcasting activities of Radio Regio Stereo (Altamura, Bari province).

This decision is especially disturbing in that it precedes - rather than following - any verdict in the case concerned, since the charge of libel perpetrated through the media has yet to be substantiated.

This is the first time in Italy that the legal authorities have taken such a decision, suspending the activities of an independent radio station and effectively preventing a journalist from exercising his profession for two months.

Does the Commission not consider it necessary to make representations to the Italian government, in order to draw its attention to the anomalous nature of this episode and determine what measures should be taken concerning this violation of freedom of expression?