

**Question for written answer E-003294/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Rule of law and freedom of the press in Italy

The Regional Administrative Court of Lazio has ordered¹ the Italian public broadcaster's (RAI) investigative TV programme *Report* to provide 'acts, documents, data and information requested by the plaintiff', a lawyer mentioned in an episode of the show on 26 October 2020.

It is a ruling that essentially asks for access to all of the journalists' sources. It therefore jeopardises EU standards on press freedom and the right of citizens to be informed. These rights are also clearly defined in the Italian Constitution and are essential requirements of the democratic rule of law.

1. In the face of this decision by an Italian court, what response does the Commission intend to provide in defence of press freedom and the rule of law in Italy?
2. How does the Commission intend to prevent a repetition of similar cases in the future, which clearly demonstrate a desire to intimidate journalists and to prevent the right to be informed of Italian citizens and EU citizens more generally?

¹ Judgment No 07333/2021 Reg. Prov. Coll, No 00198/2021 Reg. Ric.