

**Question for written answer E-004992/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Vincenzo Sofo (ECR)

Subject: Infringement of the fundamental right to freedom of expression for people in Italy

On 18 October, a peaceful protest took place in Trieste against the introduction by the Italian government of the so-called Green Pass requirement for the workplace. The protest was harshly suppressed through the use of fire hydrants, tear gas, etc.

That event also relied on the defence of the principle of non-discrimination laid down by the Commission in the regulation on the digital COVID certificate and confirmed by the Commission itself in its replies to the questions I submitted on 17 July and 17 September.

Following these events, the Italian Government's desire to restrict freedom of demonstration culminated in the case of the DASPO punitive measure imposed upon Stefano Puzzer, who represented the dockers who took part in the Trieste demonstrations and was deemed guilty of organising a peaceful demonstration in Rome, from where he has now been barred from entering for a year.

Yet freedom of expression and freedom of speech is an inalienable right enshrined in Article 21 of the Italian Constitution and Articles 11 and 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Since the Commission normally takes great care to remind its Member States that they must respect European values, can it say what measures it intends to take to remind the Italian Government to comply with the Charter?