

**Question for written answer E-003763/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Threat to freedom of information in Italy – Amendment of EU Delegated Act No 1342

On 19 December 2023, in the course of parliamentary work on EU Delegated Act No 1342, an amendment was tabled and approved in the Italian Chamber of Deputies that prevents the publication, in full or in extract, of the text of pre-trial detention orders (which contain the names of the suspects, the evidence and details of the legal proceedings) until the preliminary investigation or preliminary hearing is over.

These new provisions would effectively make these documents secret, by limiting public access to information, and fail to ensure the transparency of the public prosecutor's office and of investigations and undermine the freedom of the press and monitoring of the performance of judicial and investigative activities, ultimately meaning that they conflict with the principles of the rule of law.

Given the above, can the Commission state:

1. Whether it is aware of this situation?
2. In the light of the agreement on the European Media Freedom Act, does it not consider that this could endanger the freedom of information?
3. In view of the findings of the 2023 Rule of Law Report in Italy drawn up by the Commission itself, does it not feel that this could have serious repercussions on the rule of law?

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