

**Question for written answer E-000055/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Protection of press freedom in Italy - possible amendment of the Consolidated Act on audio-visual and radio media services

On 7 January 2024, in an interview with the newspaper *La Repubblica*, Federico Mollicone, President of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education in the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament, said that the government was working on a proposal to amend the Consolidated Act on audiovisual and radio media services (TUSMAR¹) in order to 'substantiate the veracity of news stories'. According to the statements made, the aforementioned media reform proposal has been proposed in order to protect journalism, in particular the reliability of sources and the accuracy of information following the 'drift towards sensationalism in the press'.

Given the above, can the Commission respond to the following questions:

1. Is it aware of these statements?
2. Does it consider that such a reform proposal would be in line with the agreement reached between Parliament and the Council on the Media Freedom Act? Does it not consider that such a proposal, by regulating the choices made by editors, would restrict freedom of the press and freedom of expression?

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¹ <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/gu/2021/12/10/293/so/44/sg/pdf>