

**Question for written answer E-000823/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Sabrina Pignedoli** (NI), **Clare Daly** (The Left), **Mick Wallace** (The Left), **Dietmar Köster** (S&D), **Tiziana Beghin** (NI), **Mario Furore** (NI), **Ignazio Corrao** (Verts/ALE), **Piernicola Pedicini** (Verts/ALE), **Helmut Scholz** (The Left), **Pietro Bartolo** (S&D), **Domènec Ruiz Devesa** (S&D), **Dino Giarrusso** (NI), **Malin Björk** (The Left), **Francisco Guerreiro** (Verts/ALE), **Petra Kammerevert** (S&D), **Laura Ferrara** (NI)

Subject: 'Gag law' in Italy

A law, aptly referred to as the 'gag law', is currently being passed in Italy, that will prevent journalists from publishing pre-trial orders, in full or in the form of excerpts, until the end of the preliminary hearing. Without prejudice to the presumption of innocence of defendants until all stages of their trial have been concluded, the gag law constitutes an absurd form of censorship and represents a lack of transparency in the work of the judicial bodies, compromising journalists' right to report and citizens' right to be informed. Commission recommendation (EU) 2021/1534<sup>1</sup> is being violated. Parliament's Report on the Situation of Fundamental Rights in the European Union 2022 and 2023 (2023/2028(INI)) emphasises 'the importance of media freedom for defending democracy, holding public and private institutions to account, and giving citizens access to fact-based information'.

1. Is the Commission aware of the serious breach of EU law the gag law constitutes?
2. What action does the Commission intend to take against Italy?

Submitted: 19.3.2024

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/1534 of 16 September 2021 on ensuring the protection, safety and empowerment of journalists and other media professionals in the European Union, OJ L 331, 20.9.2021, p. 8.