

Question for written answer E-002902/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)

Subject: Impact of Italian Court of Auditors reform on protection of EU's financial interests

Bill AC.1621-A, recently adopted in the Italian Chamber of Deputies and now under consideration in the Italian Senate, includes amendments to Law No 20/1994 and the Code of Accounting Procedure. It provides for concurrent audits to be replaced by prior opinions with silent consent and for a delegation to the government to reform the Italian Court of Auditors and administrative liability regime.

The court has warned that the significant limitation of civil servants' liability would run counter to EU law and, together with other elements of the reform, would deeply affect the distribution of responsibilities among civil servants¹.

There are also serious doubts as to whether it will actually be possible to prevent and punish fraud if the offence of abuse of office no longer exists and the ordinary judiciary has fewer investigative tools at its disposal.

In 2024, out of a total of 307 cases, the European Public Prosecutor's Office opened 228 investigations in Italy.

In view of the above:

1. What impact does the Commission think this reform will have on the protection of the EU's financial interests?
2. Can it say whether the weakening of the audit system could increase the risk of resources under the national recovery and resilience plan and EU funds being misused?
3. Will it urge the Italian authorities to strengthen independent and repressive monitoring tools?

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¹ Resolution of the Italian Court of Auditors of 17 April 2025 on bill AC.1621: 'Considerata l'importante limitazione della responsabilità dei funzionari pubblici che si porrebbe in controtendenza rispetto al diritto dell'Unione europea e, unitamente all'ampliamento del controllo preventivo di legittimità e alla previsione di un meccanismo di riduzione del danno erariale risarcibile per colpa grave, inciderebbe profondamente [...] sull'assetto delle responsabilità dei pubblici funzionari [...]'.