

**Question for written answer E-004452/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Dario Tamburrano (The Left)

Subject: Urgent investigation into repeated and systematic violations of press freedom in Italy: the *Report* case

The RAI investigative journalism programme *Report* has been fined EUR 150 000 by Italy's privacy watchdog for broadcasting an audio recording of a conversation involving a former minister of the Meloni government¹.

It would appear that one of the commissioners, Agostino Ghiglia – a member of the Italian Prime Minister's Brothers of Italy party – intervened in the procedure and, according to *Report*, visited the Brothers of Italy headquarters the day before the decision was taken to discuss the issue with the Prime Minister's sister².

Mr Ghiglia also issued a warning to the programme about broadcasting its report on the watchdog's relations with the government³.

Report journalists have been subjected to pressure, intimidation, SLAPP lawsuits and a bomb attack⁴.

Media freedom and independence are vital pillars of the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU, and the Commission has already initiated procedures against Member States, such as Hungary, for serious breaches of the rule of law. In view of this:

1. Will the Commission launch a specific investigation into the situation of press freedom in Italy?
2. What mechanisms, including monitoring mechanisms, will it apply, under Article 7 TEU or in relation to the conditionality of funds, to systematic violations of media independence?
3. Does it believe that a privacy watchdog should be able to interfere in such a way, thereby exerting influence on journalists' right to report?

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¹ https://www.ansa.it/sito/notizie/cronaca/2025/10/23/scontro-ranucci-garante-arriva-la-multa-a-report_9d9e09b4-707a-4435-a848-b1563c583ce8.html

² https://roma.corriere.it/notizie/politica/25_ottobre_26/report-garante-privacy-arianna-meloni-ranucci-b6c00df1-1874-46b0-b75d-1d1a09f19x1k.shtml

³ <https://www.rainews.it/articoli/2025/11/membro-garante-privacy-ghiglia-diffida-report-da-messa-in-onda-su-presunti-contatti-con-arianna-meloni-3ed0ff06-0645-4ce9-b93c-1dfe86728d1e.html>

⁴ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2025/12/01/attentato-ranucci-scorta-aumento-esercito-notizie/8212859/>