

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002470/25
to the Commission**

Pasquale Tridico (The Left), Dario Tamburrano (The Left), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Ilaria Salis (The Left), Mimmo Lucano (The Left), Manon Aubry (The Left), Estrella Galán (The Left), Catarina Martins (The Left), Özlem Demirel (The Left), Carolina Morace (The Left), Marc Botenga (The Left), Martin Schirdewan (The Left), Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left), Pernando Barrena Arza (The Left), Jussi Saramo (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Anthony Smith (The Left), Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)
(18 June 2025)

Subject: A police officer's infiltration of the political movement Potere al Popolo: a potential violation of democratic principles and fundamental freedoms

The recent news regarding an Italian police officer's infiltration of the political movement Potere al Popolo without apparent judicial authorisation, if confirmed, raises serious concerns about the violation of democratic principles and the rule of law. This episode takes place in an already worrying context, marked by concerns expressed by the Commission in 2024 about the deterioration of press freedom and attacks on independent journalists in Italy.

Such practices risk undermining the principles enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and Articles 11 and 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and are in conflict with the European Media Freedom Act on the protection of journalists and the promotion of political pluralism.

1. Is the Commission aware of these practices and what measures does it intend to take to ensure the protection of political parties and civic movements in the EU?
2. Does it consider that this case could constitute a violation of the fundamental values of the EU and of the principle of proportionality enshrined in Article 52 of the Charter?
3. Can it clarify whether it is monitoring or if investigations are under way regarding governmental infiltration of political parties, and what instruments it intends to activate to prevent similar interference and ensure the protection of democratic freedoms?

Submitted: 18.6.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(12 August 2025)

The Commission has no specific information on the situation referred to by the Honourable Members. Actions by national authorities for the purpose of maintaining law and order and safeguarding internal security remain the responsibility of the Member State concerned. Consequently, policing matters, such as the one referred to fall within the remit of the national authorities.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union applies to Member States when they are implementing EU law ⁽¹⁾. Outside those situations, it remains the competence of Member States, including their judicial authorities, to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and protected in accordance with their national legislation and international human rights obligations.

Specific matters of fundamental rights and policing also do not fall within the scope of the Rule of Law report. The Honourable Members should rest assured that the Commission closely monitors the functioning of the justice systems of all Member States, including in Italy. Reference can be made to the 2025 EU Justice Scoreboard published by the Commission in July 2025 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission will also continue to work with the Italian authorities to promote the rule of law within the framework of the comprehensive annual rule of law cycle.

The 2025 Rule of Law Report, published on 8 July 2025, presents developments and recommendations related to the rule of law in the Member States ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Article 51(1) EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

⁽²⁾ 2025 EU Justice Scoreboard, COM(2024) 375 final, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/51b21eff-a4b0-4e73-b461-06bd23b43d4e_en?filename=2025%20EU%20Justice%20Scoreboard_template.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2025-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en.