

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004452/25
to the Commission
Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Dario Tamburrano (The Left)
(11 November 2025)

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 government ⁽¹⁾.

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 sister ⁽²⁾.

Mr Ghiglia also issued a warning to the programme about broadcasting its report on the watchdog's relations with the government ⁽³⁾.

Report journalists have been subjected to pressure, intimidation, SLAPP lawsuits and a bomb attack ⁽⁴⁾.

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?

Submitted: 11.11.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(16 April 2026)

The Commission is not competent to investigate individual cases. Monitoring and enforcement of data protection rules are for the national authorities, in particular data protection supervisory authorities and courts.

The General Data Protection Regulation ⁽¹⁾ provides for the right to an effective judicial remedy against a decision of the supervisory authority, which must act with complete independence when carrying out its tasks and exercising its powers.

As regards a free and pluralistic media environment the Commission's position has been clear: it is essential for the rule of law, as free and independent media play an important role as watchdogs of democracy, holding power to account.

The Commission will continue to regularly monitor developments on media freedom and pluralism in the context of its annual rule of law report in all Member States, including Italy.

More generally, the European Media Freedom Act ⁽²⁾ (EMFA) sets out specific safeguards for the independent functioning of public service media and safeguards for editorial independence.

These rules entered into application on, respectively, 8 August 2025 and 8 February 2025. The Commission is in close contact with all Member States, including Italy, to make sure that the EMFA is effectively implemented including in relation to the independence of media service providers.

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/>

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/679, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1083, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1083>.

The EU has also put in place rules and standards to uphold media freedom and media pluralism, starting with the safety and protection of journalists ⁽³⁾ and measures to address strategic litigations against public participation ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽³⁾ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/1534, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021H1534>.

⁽⁴⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1069, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1069/oj>.