

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-005032/25
to the Commission
Cynthia Ní Mhurchú (Renew)
(19 December 2025)**

Subject: Follow-up on the Commission's answer to Written Question P-004127/2025 on the compatibility of Italy's Decree Law 688 with Community law and on the closure of Case C-519/23

In replying to my priority Question P-004127/2025 ⁽¹⁾, itself a follow-up to Written Question E-001324/2025 ⁽²⁾, the Commission again failed to answer whether Italy's Decree Law 688 is compatible with Community law.

Regarding the closure of Case C-519/23, Italy's largest trade union, FLC CGIL, furnished the Commission with the results of a census showing that discrimination persisted in the majority of Italian universities. This was sent on 19 March 2025 and was in response to a request by the Commission in February.

In April, the Commission stated that 'as agreed' it would not examine the data it had requested, but would forward it to the Italian authorities for their observations. FLC CGIL answered on 28 April 2025 that it had not agreed to this arrangement and it had expected the Commission itself to examine the census data.

Will the Commission:

1. give a 'yes' or 'no' answer to the question of whether it considers the limit to the years for which Lettori are entitled to backdated settlements for discrimination, prescribed in Decree Law 688, to be in conformity with EU law;
2. explain why it did not examine the Lettori census data but instead closed Case C-519/23 based exclusively on evidence from Italy, the defendant in the case?

Submitted: 19.12.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(11 February 2026)**

With respect to the rules regarding the prescription period in Ministerial Decree No 688/2023 of 24 May 2023 ⁽³⁾, the Italian authorities indicated in the framework of Case C-519/23 ⁽⁴⁾ that the Ministerial Decree does not subject the settlements due to the *lettori* to a new prescription or statute of limitations.

The aim of the infringement procedure ⁽⁵⁾ was to ensure that the Member State puts appropriate measures in place to comply with the Court of Justice judgments ⁽⁶⁾ and reconstructs careers of former *lettori*.

One-off instances are better dealt with at national level, as long as there are available remedies, including judicial ones. The Commission aims to swiftly follow up on systemic issues involving the application of EU law in EU countries.

The Commission has no powers to check the entitlements and the reconstruction of the careers of each of the individual former *lettori* since this would require assessing individual situations under national law.

After receiving the relevant agreement from the Italian trade union, the Commission shared the received census data with the Italian authorities requesting their reaction.

The Italian authorities reconfirmed on 9 May 2025 that they ensured that careers of all eligible former *lettori* that had not been previously reconstructed, were thus reconstructed.

The Italian authorities explained to the Commission the steps they have taken to ensure that all eligible former *lettori* were identified and received reconstruction of their careers.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-004127_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001324_EN.html

⁽³⁾ <https://www.mur.gov.it/sites/default/files/2023-06/Decreto%20Ministeriale%20n.%20688%20del%2024%20maggio%202023.pdf>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?num=C-519/23>.

⁽⁵⁾ INFR(2021)4055, [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?typeOfSearch=byCase&langCode=EN&version=v1&refId=INFR\(2021\)4055&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=refId](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?typeOfSearch=byCase&langCode=EN&version=v1&refId=INFR(2021)4055&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=refId).

⁽⁶⁾ Judgment of the Court of Justice of 26 June 2001, *Commission of the European Communities v Italian Republic*, Case C-212/99, ECLI:EU:C:2001:357 eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=oj:JOC_2001_227_R_0002_02;

Judgment of the Court of Justice of 18 July 2006, *Commission of the European Communities v Italian Republic*, Case C-119/04, ECLI:EU:C:2006:489 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62004CJ0119>.