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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(8.4.2026)

The Commission has been in touch with the Italian authorities and is willing to continue supporting them in their effort to ensure that the system of licenses for street trade is compliant with the Services Directive<sup>1</sup>. In particular, it is important that these licenses are assigned according to transparent selection procedures, in compliance with the principles of impartiality, non-discrimination, equal treatment and publicity, as duly recognised by the same Article 11 of Law 214/2023<sup>2</sup>.

With respect to the ‘scarcity’ associated to street trade services, it would appear that, in the Italian system, authorisations are assigned based on selection among several candidates, as provided by the above-mentioned Italian legislation: this creates a situation of exclusivity, as only the authorisation holders can provide services within the portion of municipal territory where street trade can be materially provided, with the exclusion of other operators.

It is for the Italian authorities to identify the most adequate implementing national measures to ensure that the Services Directive is applied to this sector. In this vein, the Commission supports the objective of reforming and making the overall system more transparent and efficient, to the benefit of interested operators and consumers.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market, OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, pp. 36–68.

<sup>2</sup> LEGGE 30 dicembre 2023, n. 214 - Legge annuale per il mercato e la concorrenza 2022,  
<https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2023-12-30;214>.