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*Dear Mr Fassoulas,*

*I would like to thank you and your co-signatories for your letter providing further information regarding media freedom and media pluralism in Italy.*

*On 24 July 2024, the Commission published the 2024 Rule of Law Report and its corresponding chapter on the rule of law situation in Italy, which mentions the issues concerning RAI-Radiotelevisione Italiana S.p.a (RAI) independence, including concerns with respect to the effectiveness of its governance and funding system and to the increased risks of political interference. The Report also refers to the fact that in spite of targeted rules on the protection of journalists against threats, the situation regarding their safety and working conditions as well as the increasing prevalence of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) cases remain an issue. It notes that there have been no major developments on the proposal to reform the press defamation regime, which also raises concerns.*

*In this light, the 2024 Rule of Law Report recommends Italy to ensure that rules or mechanisms are in place to provide funding for public service media that is appropriate for the realisation of its public service remit and to guarantee its independence. It also recommends to continue the legislative process on the draft reform on defamation, the protection of professional secrecy and journalistic sources while avoiding any risk of negative impacts on press freedom and ensure it takes into account European standards on the protection of journalists.*

*Concerning the Agenzia Giornalistica Italiana (AGI) takeover, based on the information available to the Commission, Italy has in place rules on the protection of media pluralism in case of media market concentrations that would allow the competent national media regulator to assess the transaction involving AGI, if it materialises.*

*Mr Petros Fassoulas  
Secretary General  
European Movement International*

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*We will continue to closely monitor developments and engage with the Italian authorities, including as regards the implementation of the 2024 Rule of Law Report's recommendations as well as the implementation and application of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA). EMFA will start to apply progressively as of November 2024. Once the Act enters into application, individuals can bring potential breaches of their rights stemming from EMFA before national courts and the Commission can launch infringement proceedings in case non-compliance.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Věra Jourová*



