

**Question for written answer E-001615/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Police searches of media outlets: the case of *Il Corriere Fiorentino*

On 31 July, Italian police searched both the offices of *Il Corriere Fiorentino* and the home of one of its journalists, Simone Innocenti, on suspicion of conspiring with one or more public officials to disclose and use official secrets. The raid was requested by the Florence Public Prosecutor's Office as part of an investigation concerning a 17 May *Corriere* article on the 22 April suicide of a 25-year-old female cadet who was enrolled in the Carabinieri's Academy for Warrant Officers and Sergeants in Florence.

These raids are clearly at odds not only with the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and of the Italian Constitutional Court – which have long upheld the confidentiality of journalistic sources – but also with the new rules laid down by the EU's Media Freedom Act, in particular Article 4(3)(b) thereof.

In the light of its recent recommendations on the state of press freedom in Italy:

1. Is the Commission aware of this state of affairs?
2. If so, what measures will it take to penalise the above acts, which constitute a clear infringement of two principles guaranteed by the European Union, namely freedom of the press and freedom of information?

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