



Brussels 22 June, 2009

Mr Senator Roberto Centaro
By email: centaro_r@posta.senato.it

Re: Italian Reform Law on Wiretapping

Dear Mr Centaro

ENPA – European Newspaper Publishers' Association which is an international non-profit trade association of over 5.200 newspapers from 25 European countries expresses its deep concerns about the pending '*wiretapping*' law revision which would severely restrict and even forbid publishing of any news obtained from wiretappings.

Possible publishing of such news and information is proposed to be broadly sanctioned, among other things also through criminal sanctions for journalists and abnormal monetary sanctions for publishers (from 64.500 to 465.000 Euros for each single violation): this could lead to a dangerous interference of the roles between editor and publisher in the editorial offices.

As you are well aware, this piece of unfortunate legislation was approved by the Lower Chamber very recently. **We call on you to reject this legislative proposal.**

ENPA with one of its most active member associations FIEG - Federazione Italiana Editori Giornali is namely very concerned about the effects of the proposed legislation to the daily news gathering and content creation practices of many types of media companies.

The most serious implications of the proposed law would be that it would place prior constraints to publishing certain type of news and information – this would be considered as censorship in other countries!

As Italy subscribes to the universal and European Union's principles of human rights, including freedom of expression, we would like to point out that the strong signal Italy would send to the rest of world with this legislation is a very negative one.



For this reason it is in our view particularly important that during the deliberations at the Upper Chamber the views of the representatives of the Italian media as well as expressed in this letter are taken duly into consideration.

We trust that with the help of the persons and companies who would be affected by this proposed legislation, the final outcome would be much more balanced while at the same time be in compliance with international obligations of the Italy – at the end of the day respecting freedom of expression.

We remain at your disposal in case you wish to receive more information about ENPA or of the viewpoints expressed in this letter. In particular, we are ready to visit Rome in order to have a meeting with you or members of your political party to discuss this very important matter not only to the Italian press but also to the European press too.

Sincerely yours,

Valdo Lehari jr
President of ENPA

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Executive Director of ENPA

Contacts

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