The Vice President of the Italian Council of Ministers and leader of the 5-star Movement, Luigi Di Maio, wrote on Facebook on 12 September 2018 that "newspapers (...) now pollute the public debate every day and the worst is that they are doing it with public money." Di Maio said he was planning "a reduction of indirect public contributions" to the press in the next state budget. He added that he was "preparing a letter to state-owned companies to ask them to stop paying newspapers" by buying advertising space. The National Federation of Italian Journalists (FNSI) denounced the minister's announcement, saying his proposal amounted to intimidation and was aiming at establishing a "one-track thinking" favorable to the government in the media.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Report published on the Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Italy: Deputy premier threatens to pull state advertising from "polluting" press"
- Announcement of the measure on Mr Luigi Di Maio's facebook page: "Nella legge di bilancio, taglieremo finalmente i finanziamenti pubblici ai giornali"
- FNSI statement: "Di Maio dichiara guerra agli editori, Fnsi: «Non servono intimidazioni, ma nuove leggi di sistema»".

**STATE REPLIES**

- 19 Dec 2019 | Reply from the Italian authorities (information provided by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers)