



**SGB-FSS**  
**Schweizerischer Gehörlosenbund**  
**Fédération Suisse des Sourds**  
**Federazione Svizzera dei Sordi**

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## To Whom it may concern

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## In support of the Ente Nazionale Sordi (ENS)'s proposal

The Swiss Federation of the Deaf (Federazione Svizzera dei Sordi), a member of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD), strongly supports the Ente Nazionale Sordi (ENS)'s proposal **«Measures for the removal of barriers of communication, for the recognition of LIS, the LIS tactile and for the promotion of social inclusion of deaf people and deaf-blind»**, which was submitted to the XII Social Affairs Commission.


Considering that the Italian government has signed and ratified the groundbreaking UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) on the 3rd of March 2009, the Swiss Federation of the Deaf together with EUD urges the Italian government to implement the request of the Italian Deaf Association (ENS) to recognise the Italian Sign Language (LIS) in the national legislation and to develop policies and services that enable deaf citizens to participate fully in public and private life, including employment and education.

Today already 25 out of the 28 EU Member States have recognised sign languages in their respective justice systems. Italy unfortunately is one of the last EU Member States that still has not recognized its national sign language and thereby still excludes part of their citizens from accessing vital services.

The Swiss Federation of the Deaf strongly urges the representatives of the Italian Council to remedy this situation and to co-operate with ENS to ensure full recognition of the Italian Sign Language. We urge you to fully implement the right of all deaf citizens in Italy to equality and non-discrimination.

With best regards

**Federazione Svizzera dei Sordi (SGB-FSS)**



Harry Witzthum  
Director



Roland Hermann  
President