

**Għaqda Persuni Neqsin mis-Smigh, (Malta).  
Deaf People Association, (Malta).**

45, Lascaris Wharf, Valletta, VLT1921, Malta

Email: [info@deafmalta.com](mailto:info@deafmalta.com)

Website: [www.deafmalta.com](http://www.deafmalta.com)

The Italian Parliament,

PALUMBO Giuseppe,

President of,

Composizione della XII COMMISSIONE (AFFARI SOCIALI)

May 30, 2011.

**Italian parliament's proposal to rename LIS (Lingua dei Segni Italiana - Italian Sign Language) as LMG  
(language of mime and gesture)**

Dear Giuseppe Palumbo,

The Deaf People Association of Malta which is a NGO that aims to promote and protect the rights of Deaf People. We are writing this letter to share our concerns with the Italian Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

We refer to the recent proposal by the Italian parliament who originally planned to recognize their sign language system as Lingua dei Segni Italiana (LIS, Italian Sign Language) but is now planning to endorse it a language of mimes and gestures, LMG. We would like to make our position clear and state that we will not accept the devaluation of the LIS as a LMG. We share our strong concerns with the Italian Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The proposal is clearly a serious detraction to the Human Rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people which can have negative effects throughout their life.

If the proposal will be accepted, it would be seen also as a negative reaction to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Article 2 mandates all countries to recognize their respective native sign languages on the same level as spoken languages and deserving protection and promotion among the Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens in the country. We call upon the authorities in Italy to endorse the UN Convention, recognizing once and for all the Italy Sign language (LIS) as an important means of socialisation, education, communication, equality, and participation of deaf and hard of hearing people in all aspects of society. Malta is also working toward the recognition of Lingwa tas-Sinjali Maltija (LSM). A recognition of LIS would be a positive step towards ensuring that the sign language and culture will be respected worldwide as a basic human right. Deaf people in Italy will also have the opportunity to participate on equal basis in society through social, economic, political and cultural means.

Yours truly,

  
Matthew Pace

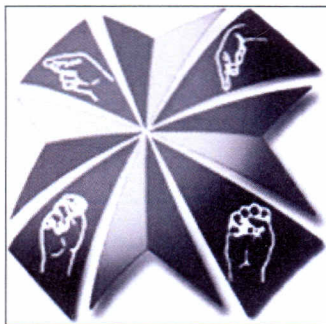
President

  
George Vella

Advisor

Cc: President of the Ente Nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei Sordi – Onlus (Italian National Association of the Deaf), Via Gregorio VII n.120, 00165 Rome, Italy. [www.ens.it](http://www.ens.it)

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Italian Ambassador to Malta,

Triq Vilhena, Floriana.

May 30, 2011.

### **Italian parliament's proposal to rename LIS (Lingua dei Segni Italiana - Italian Sign Language) as LMG (language of mime and gesture)**

Dear Dr. Luigi Marras,

The Deaf People Association of Malta which is a NGO that aims to promote and protect the rights of Deaf People. We are writing this letter to share our concerns with the Italian Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

We refer to the recent proposal by the Italian parliament who originally planned to recognize their sign language system as Lingua dei Segni Italiana (LIS, Italian Sign Language) but is now planning to endorse it a language of mimes and gestures, LMG. We would like to make our position clear and state that we will not accept the devaluation of the LIS as a LMG. We share our strong concerns with the Italian Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. The proposal is clearly a serious detraction to the Human Rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing people which can have negative effects throughout their life.

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Whilst thanking you for your attention, on behalf of the Deaf Community worldwide, we look forward to your positive response.

Yours truly,

  
Matthew Pace

President

  
George Vella

Advisor

Cc: President of the Ente Nazionale per la protezione e l'assistenza dei Sordi – Onlus (Italian National Association of the Deaf), Via Gregorio VII n.120, 00165 Rome, Italy. [www.ens.it](http://www.ens.it)

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