



4th March, 2020

We were informed by AIIC Italia, and through ANIOS social media, of a joint statement related to the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on Italian interpreters and translators' services. It was signed by the most prominent professional associations of interpreters and translators in Italy (AIIC Italia, ASSOINTERPRETI, AITI, ANITI, ASSITIG & ANIOS). The virus caused the cancellation of conferences, fairs, congresses and other major trade events. As a consequence, any related interpreting/translation service has been cancelled.

Italian interpreters and translators are mostly free-lance and independent professionals with no welfare/social protection and therefore particularly vulnerable to the current situation.

The above-mentioned group of national associations urged the Italian Government to extend their extraordinary measures in support of economic activities also to professional interpreters and translators working all over Italy as well as fiscal and welfare benefits to those working in the so-called "red zones" in North-West and North-East Italy.

The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters would like to echo their statement in support of interpreters and translators working in Italy and in particular in the zones mostly impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak.

efsli will emphasise their current needs to European Institutions and Italian MEPs for effective cooperation and assistance beyond any boundary.

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