

## **ORDER OF THE DAY PROPOSED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO IN THE SESSION OF 22 January 2021**

Faced with such a significant pandemic situation, the Parliament of the Republic of San Marino adopts an Agenda that calls for greater attention to the dissemination of truthful news, avoiding the proliferation of fake news. In fact, on the vaccine front, after having, on 12 January 2021, reached the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Secretariat of State for Health and the Italian Republic for the purchase and supply of anti-SARS-Cov2 vaccines; agreement, that will allow San Marino to shortly receive the first doses that will be administered to doctors, health and social workers as well as patients in residences for the elderly and facilities for the disabled according to our San Marino vaccination plan; the Parliament considers that the activation of an effective vaccination campaign constitutes the main protection in the fight against Coronavirus, as also confirmed by the main health organizations and most eminent epidemiologists worldwide; that a widespread diffusion of the vaccine, especially towards the weakest and most exposed subjects from a health point of view, is the fundamental step for the gradual achievement of herd immunity and therefore the restoration of a normal condition after months of emergency that has caused enormous damage to the economic and social framework of most countries.

Considering that in recent months and especially in the last weeks, since the administration, in some countries, of the first doses of the vaccine, it has been possible to witness, especially on social networks but also on websites, blogs and newspapers, the proliferation of numerous 'fake news'; false and tendentious news, without scientific basis, which tend to discredit the efficacy of the vaccine, taking advantage of the confusion due to an overabundance of pseudo information and the consequent concern of many citizens, bombarded with news, not supported by evidence of any type, which at this stage is a serious risk of compromising or slowing down the start of the vaccination campaign; that at the beginning of 2020 the WHO (World Health Organization) had declared the danger represented by fake news in the health field, talking about the so-called "infodemic", or the possibility that false news could complicate the management of the epidemic; a recent study conducted by Ceis-Eehta (Economic Evaluation and Hta) of the Economics Faculty of Tor Vergata University in collaboration with Kingston University of London highlighted how "A 'fake news' in health care" does "enormous damage" with "very high social and economic costs" and how to run the greatest risk of "sharing and perception of truthfulness" are precisely the "hoaxes" regarding vaccines; that in March 2020 the Information Council of San Marino had also launched an appeal regarding the dangers of fake news in the health field, reaffirming the importance and centrality of the role of journalists in responsibly guaranteeing citizens the right to know and evaluate, but also in avoiding the circulation of unfounded information, superficial, improvised or instrumental analyzes; that also in the Republic of San Marino we have witnessed the appearance of some fake news on the subject of vaccines, just as we are preparing to receive the first doses; that it is therefore appropriate to match the vaccination campaign with an equally important information campaign, conducted in a transparent, simple and immediate manner, involving health personnel but also and above all, those who have decided to make information their job, namely journalists and media operators. All this having been said and considered, in order to guarantee and promote correct information on the subject of vaccinations and to counter the spread of fake news;

the Parliament of the Republic of San Marino has given a mandate to the Government to take action so that, the mass media of our country, newspaper, websites, radio, TV, even blogs, are provided with periodic in-depth information regarding Covid, as is already occurring with the mass media of neighboring Italy, involving health and social workers of our Social Security Institute in this sense, with the aim of ensuring citizens and residents with all the tools for a critical and careful analysis, never finalized, driven or polluted by incorrect data.

**Oscar Mina (San Marino)**

**Head Delegation OSCE PA**

**Special Rapporteur on Disinformation and Propaganda OSCE PA**