Council of Ministers approves law decree amending rules for assisted voluntary returns

The Council of Ministers approved a new decree law which introduces urgent provisions on assisted voluntary return (AVR) programmes. The measure revises rules that were recently introduced during the conversion into Law No 55/2026 of Decree Law No 23/2026. The amendments focus in particular on the framework governing who may assist third-country nationals to apply for AVR programmes. Under the new provisions, the requirement that such assistance be provided exclusively by a lawyer has been removed, broadening the range of individuals who may offer support.

The decree also modifies the conditions for compensation linked to this activity, establishing that payment - set at approximately EUR 615 - will be granted upon completing the administrative procedure, rather than being dependent on the individual's departure.

In addition, references to the National Bar Council *(Consiglio Nazionale Forense)* were removed from the legislation. This includes provisions that had identified the body as a partner of the Ministry of the Interior in implementing return programmes and as responsible for distributing compensation for assistance services.

The decree further provides that the Ministry of the Interior will define, through a subsequent ministerial measure, the criteria to identify people who are authorised to provide assistance in the return process, as well as the procedures for payment of the related compensation.

Source(s)

- Ministry of Labour and Social Policies | Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (24 April, 2026), Rimpatri Volontari Assistiti, governo approva decreto-legge [Assisted Voluntary Returns, Government approves law decree], https://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/it-it/Ricerca-news/Dettaglio-news/id/4716/Rimpatri-Volontari-Assistiti-governo-approva-decreto-legge

Related development(s)

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Legal professionals and judiciary raise concerns over new provisions on returns and legal aid

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