

Italian government amends rules on assisted voluntary returns included in the new law zzzzzz

The Italian Council of Ministers has approved a new [decree-law](#) introducing urgent provisions on assisted voluntary return (AVR) programmes.

The measure revises rules that were recently introduced during the conversion into law of Decree-Law No. 23 of 24 February 2026. The amendments focus in particular on the framework governing who may assist third-country nationals in applying to participate in assisted voluntary return 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 €615—will be granted upon completion of the administrative procedure, rather than being dependent on the individual’s departure.

In addition, references to the National Bar Council (Consiglio Nazionale Forense) have been 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 for identifying those 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)

[Representatives of the legal profession and judiciary raise concerns over provisions on returns and legal aid in Italy’s new legislative decree](#)

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Italy

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