



## Italian minority in Croatia resumes ownership of publishing house

*Trieste 8/10/01 , by Vida Valencic*

'It is a historical moment. The Italian minority in Croatia is again owner of its publishing house Edit - we were at risk of losing not only our only publishing house, but with it also the right of expression granted by European conventions for the right of minorities', commented Maurizio Tremul, President of the Italian Union, the body officially representing the Italian minority in Croatia and Slovenia.

The Croatian government recently decided to hand over ownership of the publishing company Edit to the Italian Union. Edit publishes the paper 'La voce del popolo', which is also a member of MIDAS, the European Association of Daily Newspapers in Minority Languages. The association's President Toni Ebner, and Member of Board Bojan Brezigar recently visited the headquarters of 'La voce del popolo' in Rijeka, Croatia, and ensured their support in the drawing-up of a medium-term publishing plan to solve the crisis that threatened the paper.

Edit was verging on a severe economic-institutional crisis - putting at risk its very existence - dating back to the time when Tudjman's government got ownership. The issue was discussed at high-level bilateral talks between Croatia and Italy. Although the publishing house and especially 'La voce del popolo' wanted a solution which would grant full autonomy of the Italian media in Croatia, the solution taken was to give ownership to the Italian Union. The Union is official representative of the Italian minority in Croatia, which has been calling for a solution since 1993. Italian language papers 'Panorama', emerging every fortnight, monthly 'Arcobaleno' and the quarterly 'La Battana' are also published by Edit. Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi will visit the Italian minority in Croatia next Wednesday. (Eurolang/vida)

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