



## International Press Service.....

Ressort: Politik

### Even tougher lockdown measures in Italy

Rome, 12.03.2020 [ENA]

Italy is locked down: the government extended the quarantine to the entire country and even tougher lockdown measures kicked in today after Premier Giuseppe Conte announced late on Wednesday that all non-essential shops should close as part of the effort to contain the coronavirus. Shops and clubs across the country are closed by decree. Only food, pharmacies, newsagents, tobacconists and petrol stations remain open.

Many businesses had already pulled down the shutters. The country is isolated from abroad, most of the citizens work from home. People slowly is getting used to this new normal. Those who do not respect government measures are often stopped and fined.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte explained the new measures also thanking the Italians for the sacrifice. "We will go back to hugging each other - said Conte -, but it will still take time to see the effects on the infections".

The civil protection daily bulletin says that the number of Coronavirus positives continues to grow. It does not grow exponentially but grows, up to 10,590. The dead are 827, the healed 1,045.

It is not a flu. Intensive care units testify this situation. Covid-19 is not a flu because it is a new enemy from an immunological point of view and, as such, is completely unknown to human immune system. Having never had any exposure to the Sars-CoV-2 coronavirus before, in Europe immune defenses as individuals and as communities, the so-called herd immunity has not been developed. Herd immunity (also called herd effect, community immunity, population immunity, or social immunity) is a form of indirect protection from infectious disease that occurs when a large percentage of a population has become immune to an infection, thereby providing a measure of protection for individuals who are not immune.

The best weapon against this new enemy is not to socialize. Containment of the contagion is fundamental, as well as reaffirming its importance.

According to ANSA Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio declared today that the European Union should suspend its rules banning State aid to industry and businesses due to the coronavirus emergency. Now that the World Health Organization has declared a pandemic, he stated: «everything will change in Europe. We need a series of European measures. We need to suspend the rules on State aid to businesses, because we must help our businesses, the big ones, the little ones, the medium-sized ones».

#### Redaktioneller Programmdienst: European News Agency

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16  
D-85055 Ingolstadt  
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660  
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661  
Email: [contact@european-news-agency.com](mailto:contact@european-news-agency.com)  
Internet: [european-news-agency.com](http://european-news-agency.com)

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**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:  
European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16  
D-85055 Ingolstadt  
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660  
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661  
Email: [contact@european-news-agency.com](mailto:contact@european-news-agency.com)  
Internet: [european-news-agency.com](http://european-news-agency.com)

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