

The State of Italian Chiropractic in a Nutshell – or a Bombshell

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The FNOMCeO decision was followed on 21 July 2003 by a court ruling through which the Italian Supreme Court declared chiropractic to be a "medical act" that could in future be practised only by medical doctors. The ruling is the result of a lawsuit brought against two chiropractors in Italy for practicing medicine without a licence. In the lower courts, the defendants initially won the case based on an earlier Constitutional Court decision that chiropractic as a profession was not recognized by law and therefore did not constitute practicing medicine without a licence. The plaintiffs appealed the decision and took the case to the Supreme Court, which ruled that the procedures conducted by a chiropractor must under current Italian law be considered within the sphere of medical practice.

Why has all this happened? One reason is economic. This line of action by the medical establishment developed after a national survey revealed that more than 9 million Italians utilize some form of non-medical health alternative. There are over 300,000 medical doctors in Italy, which has a population of 56 million – one MD for every 185 persons, which is the highest ratio in the world! Of the 300,000 MDs, 80,000 are unemployed. The political medical establishment openly states its concern to find work for unemployed colleagues. Banning competition seems to be its first choice of action.

The medical profession is in a desperate state and is resorting to a desperate act. And the political medical establishment wants a claim on Chiropractic in order to breed a form of pseudo-chiropractic. Major Italian state universities are already in the process of opening postgraduate degree courses in chiropractic for medical doctors and dentists. Total hours of instruction are from 80 to 300 hours. One of the 80-hour courses has been organized by dentists to prepare their unemployed members for the practice of Chiropractic; the course is headed by a dentist and taught by dentists. It should be noted that after 80 hours of attendance, they will legally qualify as expert witnesses on the subject of Chiropractic. Given that a number of chiropractors are being taken to court, this represents a real threat. If it were to happen, it would be a dangerous precedent for Chiropractic worldwide.

For a better understanding of the situation evolving in Italy, please browse the following:

Current information:

- The Italian Medical Federation (FNOMCeO): Position paper on non conventional medicines

- Related news article: Two million Italians treated by chiropractors

- Related news article: Everyone is crazy for Chiropractic

- Related news article: An "alternative" law

- Related news article: International Chiropractors Association press release

- Internet article: A war against Chiropractic in Italy: a threat to Chiropractic worldwide

- The Italian Supreme Court Sentence

- Corte Costituzionale - Ruling 149/88

Background information:

- The State of Chiropractic in Italy
Related news article: The Chiropractors
History of Chiropractic in Italy

How can you help?

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Our website is dedicated to the advancement of Chiropractic in Italy. We believe that a large number of international registrants to our site in support of Chiropractic could be of help here in Italy, please write your views in our FORUM .

- Please visit our website. It is in Italian, but we are sure that our dedication and stance are visible.