Italy parliament rejects ESM reform, irking Brussels

ROME, Dec 21 (Reuters) – Italy's lower house of parliament voted on Thursday against a long-awaited reform of the euro zone bailout fund, throwing into doubt ratification of a European Union treaty that is designed to provide help for failing banks.

The vote confirmed the deep hostility within Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's ruling coalition to the overhaul of the so-called European Stability Mechanism (ESM), which has been approved by all other euro zone countries bar Italy.

Paschal Donohoe, president of Eurogroup of euro zone finance ministers, said he regretted the outcome and would continue to engage on the issue with the Italian authorities in the coming months.

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