

E-10 2nd TERM COUNTRY PROFILES

ITALY

General Information

<i>Official Name:</i>	Italian Republic
<i>Capital:</i>	Rome
<i>Population:</i>	58,145,320
<i>Major Languages:</i>	Italian, German, French, and Slovene
<i>Major Religions:</i>	Roman Catholic
<i>Regional/Economic Organizational Membership:</i>	NATO, EU, G-7, G-8, WTO, WHO, UN, UNSC, and the CERN, etc.

Governmental System

Republic. Divided into 15 Administrative Districts and 5 Autonomous Areas. The President of Italy is Giorgio Napolitano. The Prime Minister is Silvio Berlusconi. The Parliament has 2 chambers, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

Foreign Policy

Since the end of World War II, most administrations have taken mostly neutral view towards countries. Therefore, Italy enjoys a working relationship with almost all countries and principalities.

Issues Summary

Issue 1: Health Care → In Italy the aging population, along with free and universal healthcare, has put a large strain on the country's health care system.

Issue 2: Organized Crime → Age-old crime families still rule many parts of Italy's major cities

Issue 3: Global Warming → Air pollution from industrial emissions and vehicles has been steadily contributing to a decline in favorable climate conditions

Issue 4: Economy → As a member of the G-7, Italy is at the forefront of talks to bring about a solution to the world economic crisis.

Issue 5: Human Trafficking → The sex trade has been growing over the years, financed mostly through the Italian underground

Relationship with the United Nations

Italy was admitted in 1955. Mostly, it has supported the United Nation's international activities. Actually, Italy is actively involved with UNSC missions through the donation of troops, resources, and money.

Relationships with other United Nations Security Council Members

China: Italy has enjoyed warm relations with China, due mainly to China's massive trade with the country in the field of textiles.

Vietnam: Prime Ministers of both countries routinely visit each other to show that their relationship is very strong. In fact, in 2007, Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, held a festival called the "Italian Rainbow in Vietnam."

Indonesia: Italy has close relations with Indonesia, helped surprisingly through both nations' love of opera. Indonesia has routinely shown signs of solidarity towards Italy through visits to Rome.

France: Being neighbors, France and Italy have extremely close ties politically and culturally. There is an annual French-Italian summit in Rome where diplomats discuss how to strengthen ties and solve troubling issues.

United Kingdom: Italy and the U.K. continue to develop their close relationship by actively collaborating in issues that face their own international organizations, such as NATO and the EU.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: Libya has been actively pursuing chances to gain warmer relations with Italy. Leaders from the U.K. and Italy visited Libya after they released 6 imprisoned medics. This move by the Libyan government has all but normalized relations between the two countries.

Burkina Faso: Italy has helped the government of Burkina Faso to try and become more stable. It also helped the government in a malaria outbreak that could have killed thousands if not for the vaccines provided by Italian pharmaceuticals.

South Africa: Italy routinely describes South Africa as one of its closest friends. In 2003, both nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which cemented their diplomatic relations and formed an agreement never to criticize the policies of the other nation.

Russian Federation: Italy has close relations with Russia. Both nations often sign agreements that require collaboration from both sides. Italy has a substantial trade network in Russia, and Russia has an agreement with Italy to help bolster actions to protect civil liberties.

Belgium: Italy is very cooperative with Belgium politically and economically. Both nations have generally had warm ties.

Croatia: Both countries have been trying to finish solutions over property and ethnic rights following World War II. They are also both in a dispute over Croatian claims in the Adriatic Sea. Still, Italian diplomats claim that relations are still generally good.

United States: Italy and the U.S. are extremely cooperative on issues involving politics, economics, and defense. The U.S. has an almost \$20 billion trade deficit with Italy, which will serve to strengthen interdependency.

Panama: Italy has a mutually strong long-distance relationship with Panama. However, Panama has been asking for a Memorandum of Understanding, much like the one Italy has with the smaller Pacific nations such as Tonga.

Costa Rica: Italy has a normalized relationship with Costa Rica. The two nations rarely cooperate on many issues, given their distance. However, they usually agree on the same issues in the U.N.