



## USITF Newsletter #8, Week of 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

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Welcome to another edition of the weekly USITF newsletter, “**Italian Politics This Week**,” a snapshot on past week’s major events, complete with news and analyses from national and international sources.

**Brussels terrorist attacks shock the world:** Terrorist attacks were perpetrated by ISIS affiliates on Tuesday in Brussels, home of the European Union and NATO institutions. The attacks took place at the main Brussels airport, Zaventem, and a busy subway stop, leaving 31 killed and 270 wounded. Italian authorities received confirmation on Friday that Italian citizen Patricia Rizzo had been [killed](#) in one of the attacks. "Pain and mourning for the victims of the terrorist attacks in Brussels," Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti said, adding "only a united and caring Europe can defeat the ills of our time." Former President Giorgio Napolitano stated that terrorist attacks “must become motivation not only for waging a common and boundless battle against international terrorism, but also for highlighting fully and with absolute determination those conquests of the European [construction](#).”

**How Italy reacted to the Brussels attacks:** Despite no evidence of a direct threat, Italy has taken all the necessary security [measures](#), said Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Rome Prefect Franco Gabrielli said more police officers have been deployed in Rome. Gabrielli also suggested that installing metal detectors in train stations such as Rome’s Termini would be “unthinkable,” but instead we should focus on the source of the issue. However, the possibility of running metal detector [tests](#) at subway stations was left on the table. All major Italian [cities](#) have stepped up security. In the meantime, the government is expected to approve the creation of a national [DNA](#) database to support law enforcement activities in the fight against international terrorism, illegal immigration and international crime. But the CEO of Italian railways company Ferrovie dello Stato, Renato Mazzoncini, [warned](#) “there's no way to stop someone getting on at one of the country's 2,000 stations and getting to one of the big ones (to carry out an attack).” On Tuesday, the same day of the bloody attacks in Brussels, Italian police [arrested](#) on a European warrant, an Iraqi identified as having contacts with terrorists.

**Italy pushes for common security after Brussels:** To beat Islamist terrorism “the EU should go all the way – a unified [security and defence](#) structure is needed,” said Matteo Renzi, who also called for a “European [pact](#) for freedom and security.” Lower House Speaker Laura Boldrini [said](#), “We need to act in a unified way, for example by integrating the intelligence and police services.” Angelino Alfano said we need an “[integrated control system](#)” and the [immediate approval](#) of a European directive regulating the use of airline passenger information collected by airlines. Justice Minister Andrea Orlando echoed his colleagues, suggesting to increase [information sharing](#) and to have more and better coordination.

That’s all for this week, see you next Monday!