



USITF Newsletter #10, Week of 4th – 10th April, 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.

Oil, politics and scandals: The former chiefs of the Total oil company and other businesspersons were [convicted](#) over the construction of the Tempa Rossa oil centre in Basilicata. The probe is different from the one that spurred the resignation of Federica Guidi, former Industry Minister, who is currently not under investigation. According to some wiretaps, Guidi said, “all you do is ask me for [favours](#), I’m not a scullery maid,” to her boyfriend, Gianluca Gemelli, who is under investigation instead. Guidi and the Potenza prosecutors [met](#) for three hours on Thursday. The antiestablishment 5-Star Movement on Tuesday filed a no confidence [motion](#) in the Senate. Reforms and Relations with Parliament Minister Maria Elena Boschi also testified in the case, saying that she is willing to do it [again](#), if needed. The charge of “[environmental disaster](#)” has not been mooted so far in connection with ENI’s Centro Oli. The probe is one of three centering on long-delayed oil production in the Basilicata region.

Italy recalls its ambassador to Egypt: Italy [recalled](#) its Ambassador to Egypt on Friday, after talks with Egyptian prosecutors failed to provide details on the death of Giulio Regeni, the Italian PhD student found dead in a ditch in Cairo on 3 February. Italian judicial sources told the press that the 2000-page documents Egypt has provided lack the details that Italian prosecutors have been requested for over a [month](#). Earlier in the week, an anonymous [letter](#) was sent to the Italian daily, La Repubblica, accusing Chief General Khaled Shalabi of ordering Regeni’s abduction. Italian judicial sources said the letter will not be considered because it is full of inaccuracies.

Italians involved in the Panama papers: Prosecutors in Milan, Rome and Turin are considering opening a [probe](#) into the Italians involved in the Panama Papers scandal. According to Italian media, 800 Italians might be involved in the case, although many seemed to have settled their positions with the national taxman. Alitalia President and former Ferrari chief Luca Cordero di Montezemolo and Italian banks UBI Banca and Unicredit are among those [mentioned](#) in the Panama Papers.

Germany warns Italy over immigration: German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said on Tuesday that Italy should [stop sending](#) migrants towards Austria and Germany, or Vienna will impose tighter border controls at the Brenner intersection. Austria predicted that the number of migrants landing on Italian shores will double this year, from [150,000 in 2015 to 300,000](#), Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner told the APA news agency. Italian and Austrian Interior Ministers Angelino Alfano and Johanna Mikl-Leitner agreed on Friday to [intensify](#) collaboration in the monitoring of the shared border. Discussing the issue of migration, House Speaker Laura [Boldrini](#) said on Monday that the EU-Turkey deal to return irregular migrants from Greece was a “stain on the EU’s reputation as a

continent of human rights." The national statistic agency ISTAT claimed on Thursday that over [five million](#) foreigners legally resided in Italy at the end of 2014, consisting approximately 8,2% of the national population of around 60 million. Migration has often been discussed in relation to the aging issue. At the end of 2014 there were 157.7 elderly people to every [100 youngsters](#), according to ISTAT. In 2014, the birth rate was 1.37 per woman, below the 2.1 children needed to ensure generational turnover.

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