



USITF Newsletter #11, Week of 11th – 17th 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.

Italy sends formal request to Egypt in Regeni’s case: Rome prosecutors sent on Thursday a formal [international request](#) to obtain all relevant information to continue investigating the murder of Giulio Regeni, the Italian PhD student found dead on 3 February in Cairo. Italian investigators asked for witnesses’ testimonies, phone calls’ records and data. On the same day, an Egyptian former police officer, who now lives in the United States, said to L’Espresso [that](#) "It is impossible for the Cairo government to actually cooperate with Italy (on the investigation) because the top echelons of command are involved."

Internal politics and referendums: Italians went to the [pools](#) on Sunday in a referendum on offshore oil and gas drilling rights. The citizens will decide whether or not Italy should stop renewing offshore drilling licenses within 12 miles (20 km) of the coast. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said Italians should not go to vote, suggesting that voting “yes” might hurt economy. But we are positive Renzi will ask Italians to go to the pools in October. Italian Lower House passed Renzi’s important [constitutional reform](#) on Tuesday, which will be approved by a referendum later this year. The reform suppresses the Senate and it is linked to the introduction of a new voting system that should give Italy governments that survive full, five-year terms, Renzi believes.

New migrants will soon land in Italy: On the construction of a 250-metre fence at the border between Austria and Italy, Austrian Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner said on Tuesday that Italian agitation was “[incomprehensible](#)” and that Vienna was putting into practice what had been laid out in Rome the week before. Foreign Minister Gentiloni told the reporters on Wednesday that Italy cannot accept Austrian [unilateral move](#). In the meantime, Amnesty International and the EU have [slammed](#) Austrian decision, prompting EU Migration and Home Affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos to state "what is happening at the border between Italy and Austria is not the right solution." Italy sent on Friday a “[migration compact](#)” to the EU envisaging agreements with countries of origin and a big financial commitment by the EU. According to the International Organization for Migration migrants’ arrivals are set [to continue](#).

Italy counts on Libya to combat terrorism and stem migrants flow: Gentiloni visited Tripoli on Tuesday, hailing the formation of the new unity government as a “[game changer](#)”. He also [added](#) that "the Libyans and the national unity government must lead the fight against ISIS in the country" and that ISIS is [weaker](#) today. Also US Foreign Minister John Kerry [thanked](#) Italy for its contribution in the establishment of the new government.

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