



USITF Newsletter #12, Week of 18th – 24th 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.

EC welcomes Italy’s migration compact: Some 180,245 migrants and refugees have [landed](#) on European shores in 2016, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said on Friday. So far, 85% have arrived in Greece, while 14% have chosen Italy as their destination. But with calmer seas, Italy is [bracing](#) for new arrivals in the summer. To stem the flow of migrants, Italy advanced a “migration compact” last week, which foresees agreements between origin and transit countries, as well as a substantial financial commitment by the EU. Whereas the plan was [welcomed](#) by European Commission (EC) President Jean-Claude Juncker, German Chancellor Angela Merkel [opposed](#) the notion of financing the plan with the emission of Eurobonds.

Beaches terror plot denied by Italian authorities: The German daily Bild report depicting European beaches as possible targets by terrorist organizations has been marked as “[groundless](#)” by Italian intelligence sources. Interior Minister Angelino Alfano further [dismissed](#) the report, adding, “No country is zero risk, but so far prevention has worked.” The report came after Franco Roberti, Italy’s national anti-mafia and anti-terrorism head, said on Tuesday that ISIS and Italian Mafia are believed [to be collaborating](#) to smuggle cannabis from North Africa into Europe. The EC presented on Wednesday a new roadmap for a [European Security Union](#). EU Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos said, “Police in one member state must share relevant information with their colleagues in other countries as a matter of reflex.”

Italy signs Paris COP21 climate change deal: Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi [signed](#) the deal on Friday at the UN. In his speech, Renzi said that curbing climate change was a [priority](#) for Italy. During the press conference, Renzi also [added](#) that Italy’s “renewable energy is at 39%, our goal is to take it up to 50%.”

“Italian politicians steal”: Piercamillo Davigo, president of Italy's National Magistrates Association (ANM) union, caused uproar following comments stated during an interview with Corriere della Sera daily on Friday. Davigo [said](#), politicians "haven't stopped stealing; they've stopped being ashamed of it. They're boldly claiming what they used to do in secret. They say things like, 'With our money we do what we want.' But it's not their money, its taxpayers' money."

Italian press less free according to RSF: According to Reporters Without Borders’ (RSF) annual ranking, the world press freedom index, Italy [lost](#) 4 positions compared to 2015, dropping to 77th out of 180 States. “The level of violence against reporters (including verbal and physical intimidation and death threats) is alarming.” The most targeted journalists are those investigating corruption and

organized crime issues. According to the NGO, the judicial system of the Vatican City has also been harassing journalists in connection with the Vatileaks and Vatileaks 2 scandals.

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