



USITF Newsletter #13, Week of 25th April – 1st May, 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.

Terrorist threat grows higher: the US Director of National Intelligence [James Clapper](#) said on Tuesday that ISIS has clandestine cells in the UK, Germany and Italy. When asked if these cells are capable of carrying out attacks such as the one in Brussels he replied “Yes, they do.” Despite the absence of a specific security threat, Rome’s airspace has been [shut down](#) on May 1. Italian police [arrested](#) four people and issued arrests warrants for other two on Thursday, including a couple suspected to sympathize for ISIS. According to the police, one of the arrested had received orders from ISIS to [carry out](#) an attack in Rome. "This is a new profile, because it was not a generic indication, but an indication given to a specific person who was invited to act within the territory of the Italian State," Milan prosecutor Maurizio Romanelli said.

Italy and Austria at loggerheads over the Brenner: Vienna [presented](#) a plan on Wednesday to erect a wall at the Brenner, on the border between Austria and Italy. Italy Prime Minister said the wall is "shamelessly against European rules, as well as being against history, against logic and against the future." But Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka [rejected](#) Renzi’s words. After meeting with his Italian counterpart Angelino Alfano, he [added](#) that "we are preparing structures at the frontier but we will not introduce barriers as long as the situation does not require that." Alfano [declared](#) after meeting with Sobotka "Italy certainly isn't a country that let's itself get scared by a (fence)." NGO [Doctors Without Borders](#) and [House Speaker Laura Boldrini](#) have been critical of the Austrian initiative. Despite tensions, Austria [backs](#) Italy’s migration compact which will be discussed at the next European Council.

Italy denies sending troops to Libya: according to Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti, NATO will launch a [naval mission](#) off the coast of Libya to stem the flow of migrants landing in Europe and begin mass repatriation. In the meantime, the general defence staff described Corriere della Sera’s report saying that Italy was going to send a [contingent of 900 soldiers](#) to Libya as “groundless”. Renzi also confirmed the report “[was not true](#).”

Government appoints new intelligence and police chiefs: the cabinet [nominated](#) on Friday National Police Chief Alessandro Pansa to lead the Security Intelligence Department (DIS), which coordinates the External (AISE) and the Internal (AISI) Intelligence and Security Agencies. General Mario Parente will lead AISI, whereas Rome Prefect Franco Gabrielli will replace Pansa as national police chief. General Giorgio Toschi and Admiral Valter Girardelli are respectively the new Finance police and Navy commander. Finally, Army General Carmine Masiello was appointed as the premier's new military advisor.