



USITF Newsletter #17, Week of 23rd – 29th May, 2016
Written and edited by [Tommaso De Zan](#)

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.

Italian Marine Girone back in Italy: The Italian marine Salvatore Girone, who has been kept in custody in India after the murder of two fishermen in 2012, [returned](#) home in Italy on Sunday. Massimo Latorre, the other marine involved in the quarrel between Rome and New Delhi, is already back after suffering health problems. The Supreme Court had ruled Girone is free to go home until India and Italy will agree upon which institution should have jurisdiction over the case. Relations between the two countries have soured after the incident, as Italy argues the case should not be heard in India because it occurred in international waters. India has set [seven strict conditions](#) for Girone’s return to Italy.

IOM welcomes Renzi’s migration compact: The United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) considers Renzi’s proposal “a first step in the right [direction](#), not the only one, but a good start.” Italian plan offers development programs and financial aid to African countries in exchange for cooperation in controlling migration flows, including more severe screening of economic migrants and refugees. “We have spoken to the European Union about the urgent need to consider a comprehensive, long-term migration policy for many years,” said Lacy Swing, IOM’s director general. European Commission President Claude Juncker [said](#) that a continent of 508 million people should be able to absorb the arrival of 2 million of refugees.

The October Referendum last shot for Italy?: Pier Luigi Bersani, Premier Matteo Renzi's predecessor as the head of the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), asked Renzi to make some [concessions](#) over the Italicum. The Italicum, the election law upon which Italians will be asked to vote on in October, attributes additional seats in the Parliament to the political party gaining more than 40% of the votes in a general election. Renzi believes the Italicum will give Italian stable governments, although Bersani said he would like to see Italicum's run-off to be replaced by a automatic second round of voting where no single candidate wins more than 50% in the first round of an election. Reform Minister Maria Elena Boschi [said](#) the referendum is “the last call for the country,” adding “if we were to miss this chance I don't know when another will present itself.”

Italian economy “modestly” growing: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) further [increased](#) Italian GDP growth estimates , from 1% to 1.1% in 2016 and from 1.1% to 1.25% in 2017 and 2018. Even German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble [remarked](#) “we have the impression that [Italy] is on the right road and we support this.” However, according to the IMF, Italy’s recovery “[remains modest](#)” and its high public debt is unlikely to fall this year. Vincenzo Boccia, the new president of Italian industrial employers' confederation Confindustria, [underlines](#) that “it's a modest, disappointing rise, which will not take us back to pre-recession levels in a short period of time.”

The US-Italy Global Affairs Forum's Tommaso De Zan has recently obtained a new position and all the friends at the Forum are very proud of his new achievement. He will be busy for the next semester and hopes that someone will be able to take over the newsletter from him. If you are interested, please contact danielemoro@usitalyforum.com.