



**USITF Newsletter #18, Week of 30<sup>th</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June, 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.

**“October referendum will boost Italy’s credibility”:** “The combination of reforms and (political) stability has generated a revolution in the perception of our partners. That's why I insist - every day, more and more - that the October referendum will have an incredible value, including for our country's credibility abroad,” [said](#) on Monday Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Even the Germans seem impressed by the government’s reforms, in particular the institutional one, [said](#) Reform Minister Maria Elena Boschi. Vincenzo Boccia, president of the industrial employers' lobby Confindustria, [said](#) on Monday that the government's constitutional reforms should be embraced with “courage and determination.” If the referendum wins, Renzi [hopes](#) to stay in power until 2023, after winning the general elections in 2018.

**A new Marshall Plan for the Mediterranean:** Lower House Speaker Laura Boldrini called for a “[Marshall Plan](#)” for the Mediterranean on Monday, suggesting this is not an utopian dream but in the interest of Europe. She also added that the EU-Turkey deal is not working due to political and juridical “[problems](#).” Her assessment starkly differs from the evaluation of Renzi, who said on Friday [migrant arrivals](#) to Italy from Greece and Turkey have decreased threefold since the implementation of the EU-Turkey migrant accord. After the European Commission (EC) said it was still waiting to receive a [response](#) from Italy on the establishment of further hotspots for asylum seekers, Italy’s interior ministry said on Wednesday it will [open](#) two new hotspots in Sicily and six mobile ones in Cagliari, Reggio Calabria and four more locations.

**New measures to shore up Italian recovery:** “The recovery still needs to be consolidated,” and “the assessments of our economy's potential growth are disappointing,” said Bank of Italy Governor Ignazio Visco on Tuesday. Visco suggested Italy should fight illegal activities, make the public administration and civil justice efficient, invest in innovation and research in its reforms efforts’ list. In contrast, Economy Minister Carlo Padoan, [said](#) “the Italian economy has turned the corner... The government will do more, and will continue cutting taxes.” Deficit and debt-to-GDP ratio’s reduction “remain the objective,” Padoan added. In the meantime, the economy and industry ministries are working on a so-called “[competitiveness bill](#),” which should foresee tax breaks for Italian professionals to return from abroad and those investing in start-ups for at least three years.

*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](mailto:danielemoro@usitalyforum.com).*