

Italian Objectives for the 2002 Kananaskis G8 Summit

Political Data

National Legislature: Bicameral: Senate of 315 seats; Chamber of Deputies of 630 seats

National Elections: 13 May 2001; next election due in 2006

Head of State: President, elected for a seven-year term by an Electoral College of the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies and representatives of regional councils. The president chooses the Prime Minister and nominates a number of Supreme Court judges but has no executive powers. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi was elected in May 1999; his term runs until May 2006.

National Government: Council of Ministers headed by a prime minister appointed by the president on the basis of ability to form a government with parliamentary support. The present government was formed by Silvio Berlusconi on 11 June 2001.

Population: 57.5m (2000)

Land Area: 301,300 sq. km

Source: Country Report Economist Intelligence Unit, 08 Apr 2002

Government

Cabinet Ministers	
Prime minister	Silvio Berlusconi (Forza Italia - FI)
Deputy prime minister	Gianfranco Fini (Alleanza Nazionale - AN)
Cabinet under-secretary	Gianni Letta (FI) Paolo Bonaiuti (FI)
Agriculture	Giovanni Alemanno (AN)
Communications	Maurizio Gasparri (AN)
Culture	Giuliano Urbani (FI)
Defence	Antonio Martino (FI)
Education, universities & research	Letizia Moratti (independent)
Employment & social policy	Roberto Maroni (Lega Nord)
Environment	Altero Matteoli (AN)
Finance & economic affairs	Giulio Tremonti (FI)
Foreign affairs	Silvio Berlusconi (interim) (FI)

	<i>Undersecretaries</i> Roberto Antonione Mario Baccini Margherita Boniver Alfredo Luigi Mantica
Health	Girolamo Sirchia (independent)
Industry	Antonio Marzano (FI)
Infrastructure & transport	Pietro Lunardi (independent)
Interior	Claudio Scajola (FI)
Justice	Roberto Castelli (Lega Nord)
Non-cabinet Ministers	
Equal opportunities	Stefania Prestigiacomo (FI)
European affairs	Rocco Buttiglione (Biancofiore)
Institutional reform & devolution	Umberto Bossi (Lega Nord)
Public administration	Franco Frattini (FI)
Regional affairs	Enrico La Loggia (FI)
Innovation Technology	Lucio Stanca
Italians in the World	Mirko Tremaglia
Parliament Relations	Carlo Giovanardi
Government program actualization	Giuseppe Pisanu
Central bank governor	Antonio Fazio
G8 Sherpa	Giovanni Castellaneta
Personal Representative for the Africa Plan	Alberto Michelini

Source: Country Report Economist Intelligence Unit (08 Apr 2002); http://www.governo.it/sez_ministeri/index.html (10 June 2002)

Economic Data

CURRENCY: EURO (€)

GDP: €1,165.7bn (2000); US\$1,077bn (2000, at market exchange rate); US\$1,408bn (2000, at PPP)

GDP GROWTH: 1.9% (average, 1996-2000); 2.9% (2000); 1.8% (2001)

GDP PER CAPITA: US\$18,727 (2000, at market exchange rate); US\$24,493 (2000, at PPP)

INFLATION: 2.3% (average, 1996-2000); 2.5% (2000, average)

Source: Country ViewsWire, Economist Intelligence Unit; http://www.dt.tesoro.it/Aree-Docum/Analisi-Pr/Documenti-/Relazione-2/Relazione-Generale-Situazione-econom.txt_cvt.htm

Introduction

Since assuming the Chairmanship of the G8 Presidency in 2001, Italy has been an active and committed participant in international affairs. It has observed even if not complied in full with the Genoa Summit pledges and has continually confirmed its commitment to continuity of foreign policy objectives. Although the Italian diplomatic and economic interests span a wide range of issues, its position at the Kananaskis Summit will be in line with the top priorities that were negotiated at Genoa in 2001 under a strong Italian advocacy. The three main issues that Italy will try to secure in the Chairman's statement upon the conclusion of the Summit reflect Italy's diplomatic efforts over the course of the past year: security, sustainable development and poverty reduction, and conflict prevention. They are also principally in accordance with the issue objectives of the host country.

Country Background

The increased presence of Italy as a player on the international scene is conditioned in part by the government's stated objective of reforming the instruments and scope of its foreign policy. The beginning of 2002 saw a heightened internal turbulence over the 'Europe v. Atlantic' dichotomy and the administration's perceived undermining of the Euro-integration process, which led to the resignation of Italy's foremost diplomat and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Renato Ruggiero, in January 2002.

The assumption of the Foreign Ministry post by the Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, did little to allay the entrenched scepticism vis-à-vis his government in the foreign press or—after internal corruption, conflict of interest, and judicial mismanagement scandals—to cast the country in a more positive light. Despite all the outcry, however, Mr Berlusconi's *interim* handling of the portfolio has shown a remarkable continuity and consistency from the Ruggiero period and has propelled Italy onto the international center-stage with the recent NATO-Russia Summit in Rome. Mr Berlusconi has continually demonstrated unwavering support for the institutions propping up the trans-Atlantic partnership, as well as a growing desire to expand it beyond the Ural.

Even though Mr Berlusconi sees the economic arm of foreign policy as a centerpiece of his reformed Italian diplomacy, Italy will not be introducing any home-grown economic proposals to Kananaskis. Its economic weight would not stand for it.

Internal difficulties persist. A recent Fini-Bossi (anti-)immigration law is symptomatic of a Europe-wide swing to the right. More frequent police raids and investigations cannot stem the tide of illegal immigration and criminal networks that use Italy as the staging point toward the Euro-bloc. Labour market rigidity and obsolescence thwart the country's

competitiveness and provoke embarrassing reprimands from the European Commission. The judiciary is trying to uphold its independence, while trade and labour unions to maintain their standard of living; a wave of strikes cost Italy millions of Eurasia in lost profit.

As important as they are to the continuing legitimacy and power of the Cassia dell Libretto government, all of these issues are reserved for other either domestic or regional European for. At the Kananaskis G8 Summit, Italy will try to focus attention away from its tarnished internal record and orient it toward the larger, global issues in which it can demonstrate its overall positive and involved role.

Summit Objectives for Italy

1. Security

Italy's commitment to regional and global security extends beyond its willing participation in the US-led operations against terrorism in Afghanistan. An important aspect in the formulation of Italy's security policies is the prominence of Russia as a partner to be integrated in any decision-making process and to be helped along both politically and financially.

Italy's "tenacious" support of the NATO-Russia Accord was important in producing the final Rome Declaration of 28 May 2002. Mr Berlusconi reveals in fact that, ever since the G8 in Genoa, Italy "applied continuous pressure on the American administration." The Rome Summit conferred a new status on Russia and committed the Western military alliance to a partnership with Moscow of profound political significance—the NATO Council of 20 that includes Russia, states Mr Berlusconi, will be a "new formidable instrument for promotion of security and peace in the world" and will contribute to a "consolidation of the security architecture" in Europe. He sees the role of the coalition in exerting decisive influence in regional crises, in bringing about balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and fighting nuclear proliferation, in providing world-wide intelligence Cupertino, as well as in challenging states whose production of WMD poses an international threat.

In fact, as early as December 2001, Min. Ruggiero expressed hope that the meeting of Russia's Minister Ivanov with the NATO Council would lead to greater co-operation. A process that he called "extraordinary," Mr Ruggiero suggested that soon NATO and Russia would not be "19 plus 1," but simply 20, in a single Council of Ministers. He announced that the decision would be made official at a summit in Italy in 2002: "I've launched the idea; now I have to work on it."

Italy sees Russia as its sidekick at the next G8—especially concerning questions of conflict resolution. The two countries signed a Joint Declaration on Italo-Russian Collaboration in Moscow in April 2002, the objectives of which Italy wishes to see endorsed by its other G8 fellow-states. The topmost aims include accelerating the proximity of European and Russian institutions, Russia's entry into the WTO, and co-operation in the fight against trans-national organized crime, nuclear proliferation and

North-South divide. The two countries also expressed their preference to use the G8 as a forum for strategic initiatives.

Also significant, they expressed intention to cooperate in all sectors in the fight against terrorism—from judicial means and preventing the financing of terrorism, to maintaining dialogue with the United States on weapons control and reduction.

Italy hopes to see the entry of Russia into the WTO in September 2002 during the V. Ministerial Conference in Mexico, which will also coincide with the Italian Presidency of the EU. This would be the economic counterpart to the military accord that Italy facilitated.

In the June 11th meeting with the UN Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan, Mr Berlusconi confirmed Italy's continued participation in ISAF (the international force in Afghanistan) until at least the end of 2002, open to extension. Mr Berlusconi referred earlier the question of terrorism to the internal immigration emergency, adding that unless there is an early intervention, there is always the risk of having "many potential September 11ths." Intelligence cupertino and an international network designed to fight terrorism via illegal migration would be a welcome antidote for Italy's own problems.

Arms reduction is another principal ingredient in the Italian formula for security. In a statement of 17 May 2002, Mr Berlusconi expressed hope to muster support by the time of the Kananaskis Summit to dismantle Russia's arsenal of biological and chemical weapons. He indicated that the United States had already agreed to contribute \$10-million, while the same amount should be forthcoming from the remainder of the G8 and the EU. Mr Berlusconi delights in the fact that the conduct of such high-level politics has granted Italy unseen consideration from its G8 counterparts. As a result, these uni- and bilateral initiatives are all potential issues that Italy will wish to see furthered, endorsed or at least recognized at the Summit.

Another tenet of this international security policy is in fact poverty reduction and development, often associated with the 'root-causes' terrorism.

2. Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction

Italy remains committed to the dual objective of sustainable development and poverty reduction even though its relative position as a donor country or its ODA do not place it on the forefront of the struggle against poverty. Italy in fact went beyond the Cologne G8 commitments to cancel 100% of all commercial credits for the states that had completed their (HIPC) negotiations. But Italy acknowledges that "debt forgiveness does not guarantee development." Italy, for its part, "has done a lot for African States over the last few years." It has introduced a law to cancel the debt of poor states and committed itself to triple development aid by 2006 and has tackled the issue of poverty on multiple fronts to foster (sustainable) development—from the HIPC initiative and debt reduction/cancellation, to trade opportunities and market access, to technological ('digital') divide and direct assistance etc.

Following the 2001 G8 and the launching of the Genoa Global Fund against AIDS, malaria and TB under the Italian Presidency, Italy remains committed to the African continent and the new *partnership* with NEPAD. South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki asked of Mr Berlusconi in a June 11th meeting in Rome that, "as was the case at Genoa, Italy be a leading force also at the G8 Kananaskis Summit in Canada to reach concrete results and to consolidate the [NEPAD] initiative."

Italy has shown remarkable progress for the Economic Growth-HIPC Initiative. The Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Alfredo Mantica, pledged at the UN International Conference for Financing of Development in Monterrey that the Italian government would make new appropriations to fund national programs to combat poverty in HIPC states, using foreign debt cancellation as one of the main initiatives, which was affirmed through budgetary and resource allocations. Over the course of 2001, Italy signed 16 multilateral agreements on debt restructuring totalling US\$25.4-million and an additional 9 bilateral agreements worth US\$7.7-million. "Legge 209/00" (created in July of 2000) widened the scope of debt restructuring to include IDA and non-HIPCs and IDA HIPCs for partial and total debt reduction. Even before the Genoa Summit, Italy cancelled 100% of Bolivia's debt on 10 July 2001. The Undersecretary of State, Mario Baccini, met with the Vice President of Burundi on 9 April 2002. As well, as its primary creditor, Italy cancelled US\$83-million of Uganda's foreign debt on 17 April 2002. Italy signed a debt restructuring accord with Ecuador on 24 May. It cancelled 100% of Mozambique's external debt valued at US\$524-million on 11 June.

Italy is seeking to work on the European level to allow for "a free and even privileged access of African products to the European markets." Italy committed €1-million on 06 June 2002 to the 'Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund,' created by the WTO to aid the integration of the poorest states into the international trade system. President Ciampi praised the Doha conclusions, indicating Italy's commitment, first, to facilitate availability of essential medicaments; second, to provide technical assistance to increase international financial exchange and flows; third, to secure market access.

While the EU Prime Ministers have committed themselves to 0.70% GDP for ODA at the Barcelona Conference in March 2002, Mr Berlusconi admits, "The West is far from the 0.70% [objective]." From private "Swiss bank accounts" to "arms acquisition," western parliaments are unwilling to blindly hand out money to dubious ends. As a result, Italy will present a proposal at the next G8 for the "change of the system of financing," based on a more transparent model of aid and on the application of new technologies in South to improve public administration.

In fact, Italy has been the most vocal advocate of the G8 DOT Force and has played an important role in raising awareness, formulating and finalizing the establishment of e-Government in the developing world. It has placed 'digital divide' on high priority—especially concerning the implementation of the nine suggested policy actions of the Genoa Action Plan. In an organizational meeting of the DOT Force Implementation Teams in Montreal, Italy and Canada (as joint chairs) announced that each would develop its implementation strategy and one or more concrete initiatives as a priority area. Reports on the progress of the teams will be presented to the G8 leaders in Kananaskis.

Italy's principal contribution is focussed on "E-Government and Development," for which an action framework has been developed with the cupertino of the private sector and civil society. Its five primary objectives (to develop a reference digital model of public administration; collaborate with four initial developing countries toward the implementation of the reference model; create a dedicated portal on E-Government for development; host an International Conference; and formulate a draft Action Plan on how E-Government can strengthen democracy) have seen a successful completion. The Italian government co-hosted with the UN an International Conference on 'E-Government for Development' in Palermo in April 2002. With the motto of "using technology against poverty," Italy's Minister for Technological Innovation Lucio Stanca announced that his government would establish a Trust Fund with the UN to finance E-Government projects in five states (Albania, Tunisia, Jordan, Mozambique, and Nigeria) and allot US\$4-million for the study of future projects. Another €7-million are foreseen for technological innovation in the South. Mozambique's President, Alberto Chissano, stressed the importance of the Italian initiative for his country in creating a digitized Public Administration. As well, the government of Italy, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank, agreed to become a funding member of the Development Gateway Foundation. Minister Stanca also advanced the idea of proposing a "network of rich states" at the next G8 that would aid the developing world in a manner similar to Italy's current projects. The Conference also recognized the Italian Initiative as an important, concrete follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus on development assistance and invited the donor community to "join this initiative to maximize and widen its impact."

In addition to the new 1.0% GDP benchmark, Mr Berlusconi is planning to unveil to his G8 partners the so-called "de-tax" (funds destined toward health care and education in the developing countries). This initiative would allow the producers of luxury goods to work alongside specific development agencies and donate a set percentage of the good toward a specific project in a developing country. I.e. citizens of an industrialised country would have the option of having a percentage (1-3.0%) of the total value of a good donated to a specific project of their choice.

The Italian parliament approved a motion preceding the FAO June 2002 Summit in which it assumed the commitment to concentrate its development aid in the 2002-2004 period on sustainable development and integrated programs in the fight against hunger, thirst, and desertification, gradually bringing its ODA to 0.70% of the GDP within 5 years.

Food security and education still play a key role in Italy's sustainable development policies. At the FAO Summit in Rome, the Italian Government contributed €50-million to the new Special Trust fund for Food Security and Food Safety. It will continue to ensure that Rome remains a crucial link in the North-South dialogue. Italy has donated €100-million in total this year to various FAO programs. This includes investment in the agricultural sector that specifically focus on "knowledge and technological investment." Italy also reaffirmed its support for the International School of Agricultural Development with the priority of educating the youth in the LDCs on the importance of conserving agricultural biodiversity. Italy also encourages and plans to assist its bilateral debtor countries in establishing concrete objectives for socio-economic development in areas of the environment as well as in the promotion of human capital.

Italy is thus calling for concerted action in anticipation of the UN Conference on the Environment and Development to be held in Johannesburg in September 2002 ('Rio + 10'), seen as an opportunity to encourage the attainment of the Rio commitments as well as to assume new obligations for sustainable development. The Cape Town Declaration during the visit of the President of the Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, to South Africa reaffirmed the commitment of the two states to participate actively at the upcoming World Summit.

Of all the G8 states, Italy at present has the lowest ODA. At the signing of the Protocol on Cupertino in the Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Sectors between the FAO and Italy on 29 January 2002, Mr Berlusconi declared that he would request at the next G8 that the development aid to the poorest states be increased from 0.70% to 1.0% of GDP. According to the latest OECD statistics, Italy contributed \$1,493-million or 0.14% of its gross national income (GNI) to development assistance—an absolute 8.8% or relative 0.10% GNI increase since 2000. This makes it the 11th ranked donor country in absolute terms but only the 21st in relative GDP terms (of the 22 OECD countries; in 2001). This is also below the 0.18% G7 average. These numbers, however, are likely to witness a rapid upward trend in 2002, yielding a more favourable assessment in the next period.

President Ciampi identified debt, market access, education and health divide as the tenets of any sustainable development policy. These are “the concrete outcomes of the Genoa Summit to which Italy is committed and for which it intends to work together with its European and Western partners, especially with the Canadian Presidency.”

The Italian centre-left opposition (the Margherita coalition) strongly favours government's increased development commitment and is critical of the current, somewhat sluggish progress. Nonetheless, despite the slow start, they acknowledge that Italy has assumed a position of international leadership on debt cancellation and in the fight against poverty. They are calling on the government to observe its promise and commit its G8 partners to 1.0% GDP ODA and to raise its current ODA from 0.14% to 0.30% in the next budget.

3. Conflict Prevention

Conflict prevention has been a staple item on the Italian foreign policy agenda. A decade after the Rome peace accords brought stability to Mozambique, Italy is still busy trying to broker peace deals and secure humanitarian assistance to war-torn areas.

It strongly endorsed the G8 Foreign Ministers' declaration on India and Pakistan, which it also placed on the forefront of the Rome Summit of the North Atlantic Council and Russia on 28 May 2002. Mr Berlusconi appealed for further and more “assertive action from the international community” and other, vigorous initiatives on behalf of the international community to defuse tensions on the subcontinent and will seek to do so at the G8 Summit. The government gave full support to the mediatory role played by Russia's President Putin and welcomed the efforts by the US government and Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld. In the meantime, Margherita Boniver, the Undersecretary

of Foreign Affairs, met on 3 June with President Musharraf's special envoy to Europe, Gen. Jehangir Karamat.

Besides being a constant observer of the situation in the Balkans and in Somalia, Italy also reaffirmed its interest in the Middle East and actively participated to resolve the crisis. It assumed a co-ordinating role in the delivery of international humanitarian aid and in organizing convoys for the occupied Palestinian territories. By mid-April, it had contributed 30 tons of aid worth €32-million. In a joint statement with Russia earlier this year, it urged dialogue between the Israeli and Palestinian sides on the basis of the Tenet Plan and the Mitchell Commission recommendations. It also supported the Saudi peace initiative approved at the Arab League Summit in Beirut. It sees as necessary the reconstruction of the Palestinian economy with the broader objective of ensuring peace in the region. Mr Berlusconi reiterated his earlier Middle East peace proposal and his goal of bringing the warring parties—as well as the US, Russia, the EU and the Arab League—to the negotiating table under the aegis of the UN. After Mr Berlusconi's meeting with Mr Putin on 2 April 2002, Undersecretary Mantica asserted that "Italy and Russia will work together toward this objective at the next G8." Mr Berlusconi has offered good offices and his country's hospitality for the potential negotiations (in Erice), which he sees as early as this summer. He did not hide his optimism following the 04 June meeting with Algeria's President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Mr Berlusconi also traveled to Saudi Arabia in March 2002, as well as broached the idea of an International Conference in his meeting with Mr Annan on 11 June. Mr Annan used this occasion to thank the Italian government for its continued support of the UN. Italy is the sixth largest contributor financially and the third militarily—with more than 10,000 people deployed world-wide.

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