# Italy

## 1. Location, Amount and Details of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Deployment/storage

In the mid-1990s, weapons stored at Rimini Air Base were transferred to Ghedi Torre.

**Nuclear Weapons Storage Sites**

| Location | Number of Vaults | Maximum Capacity | Number of Deployed Weapons |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aviano Airbase | 18 | 72 | 50 |
| Ghedi Torre Airbase | 11 | 44 | 40 |
| Total | | | 90 |

http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear/euro/euro.pdf

## 2. Location and Capability of Nuclear Facilities

**Power Reactors**
Operational: 0
Shut down: 4
Decommissioned: 0
Under constructon: 0
Planned: 0
http://www.iaea.or.at/programmes/a2/

**Research Reactors**
Operational: 5
Shut down: 4
Decommissioned: 5
Under construction: 0
Planned: 0
http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom/rrdb/

About 10% of Italy's electricy comes from imported nuclear power, as all four of Italy's reactors have been shut down. Italy also does not have any indigenous commercial reprocessing or enrichment facilities. It is part of a joint commercial venture with Belgium, France, and Spain called Eurodif, which has one production facility in France that produces enriched uranium for about 100 reactors around the world. As of 2006, fuel is sent to France for reprocessing. http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf101.html; http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/5278806.stm

## 3. Fissile Material Holdings

**Separated Civil Plutonium end 2003**
In country: 0 (unknown)
In other countries: 2.5 tons
Total: 2.5 tons
Estimates 2010-2020: 3 tons

**Highly Enriched Uranium end 2003**
In country: 0.1-0.2 tons
Supplied by: US

Italy has separated plutonium stored in Britain and France. The plutonium in Britain resulted from reprocessing contracts at the Thorp plant. The plutonium in France is in the form of unirradiated Superphenix fuel. Italy does not have firm plans to use civil MOX.
http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/end2003/plutonium_watch2005.pdf
http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/end2003/civil_heu_watch2005.pdf

**Radioactive waste disposal**
According to a 1999 government plan for decommissioning, three main goals relating to nuclear waste disposal were outlined:

1) All on-site radioactive waste should be treated and conditioned within the next ten years with the view to subsequent transport to a national repository.
2) Site selection and construction of a national repository for the disposal of low-level waste and intermediate-level waste should be accomplished within ten years. The site

should also be suitable for the interim storage of long-lived LLW, ILW and spent fuel, plus residues from former reprocessed fuel.
3) Decommissioning of nuclear power plants, with a view to returning the sites to green field status, should be achieved within the next 20 years.

Currently, approximately 5500 cubic meters of LLW and ILW and 8,500 cubic metres of HLW are stored in 140 sites in 25 cities around the country. The government was exploring a possible national repository for LLW and ILW at an abandoned salt mine near the town of Scanzano Jonico but withdrew after two weeks of protests by local residents in December 2003. The government established a commission to select another site for a national repository. In 2005, the commission decided the waste should be sent to the UK, but that too was protested. In November 2006, a bilateral French - Italian agreement cleared the way for SOGIN to sign a contract with Areva NC for reprocessing 235 tonnes of used fuel now in storage. It is to be shipped to the Hague between 2007 and 2015 and the wastes are to be returned after 2020.
http://www.uic.com.au/nip101.htm; http://www.zonanucleare.com/language/english/nuclear_waste_italy-uk.htm

## 4. Nuclear Activities

**Research Programs**
l'ACN Scientific Labs
Centro Ricerche di Casaccia
Centro Ricerche di Frascati
Centro Ricerche di Saluggia
CeSNEF: Centro Studi Nucleari Enrico Fermi
CNR: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
ECT: European Centre for Theoretical Nuclear Physics
Elettra Synchrotron Light Source
Eurotherm
ICTP: International Centre for Theoretical Physics
INFM: Istituto Nazionale per la Fisica della Materia
INFN: Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare
JRC Ispra Environmental Institute
LNF: Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati
http://www.radwaste.org/research.htm

**Nuclear Cooperation**
Italy's nuclear cooperation is mainly through Euratom, of which it is a founding member.

In addition, nuclear cooperation agreements exist between Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Turkey to enable their national air forces to deliver US nuclear bombs in times of war.
http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear/euro/euro.pdf

## 5. International Non-proliferation Efforts

Italy is also a participant in the G8 Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction, launched in Kananaskis, Canada 2002.

**Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit**
Antarctic Treaty, 18 March 1981
APM Convention, 23 April 1999
Biological Weapons Convention, 30 May 1975
Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, 20 January 1995
Chemical Weapons Convention, 8 December 1995

Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, 1 February 1999
Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 13 June 1980
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 4 May 1975
Outer Space Treaty, 4 May 1972
Seabed Treaty, 3 September 1974

Italy ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol on 30 April 2004.

**Multilateral Groups**
Australia Group
Conference on Disarmament
Nuclear Suppliers Group
Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation
Missile Technology Control Regime
Proliferation Security Initiative
Wasenaar Arrangement
Zangger Committee

## 6. Positions Taken in International Fora on Various Issues of Nuclear Disarmament

*Cooperative Threat Reduction*: "CTR is one of the most significant developments that have taken place in the past few years in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. . . . It refers to the process of international cooperation and assistance through which a large number of nuclear warheads and carriers have been destroyed or deactivated and WMD materials have been eliminated or placed in safe strorage. . . . CTR has become one of the most important instruments of the European strategy against the proliferaiton of WMD. . . . not only do we have to face the problem of negotiating and implementing disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, we also have to cope with the additional problem of actually destroying those weapons." - **Statement by H.E. Ambassador Carlo Trezza to the General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, 10 October 2006**. http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com06/statements/italyoct10.pdf

*Thirteen Steps:* "A total prohibition of nuclear weapons through a single multilateral agreement is not around the corner. A step by step approach is more realistic. The graduality of the disarmament process was originally contemplated by Art. VI of the NPT which mentions negotiations on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early rate and to nuclear disarmament. . . . By agreeing on 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Art. VI of the NPT and the 1995 decision on 'Principles and objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament,' the international community has acknowledged that the best way to achieve nuclear disarmament is through a phased approach." **- Statement by H.E. Ambassador Carlo Trezza to the Conference on Disarmament, 28 February 2006.** http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/speeches06/28FebItaly.pdf

*Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation:* "Nuclear disarmament is another pillar of the non-proliferation equation and further progress in this field would be beneficial to non-proliferation. Vice versa, an aggravated proliferation situation is detrimental to nuclear disarmament. We deeply regret that negotiations on an FMCT have not started yet and that CTBT has not entered-into-force. More could have been done." **- Statement by H.E. Giuseppe Drago to the Seventh Review Conference of the NPT, 3 May 2005.** http://www.un.org/events/npt2005/statements/npt03italy.pdf