

Italy

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

Nuclear Weapons Storage Sites

Like all U.S. nuclear weapons on foreign soil, the nuclear weapons stationed in Italy are not subject to any transparency measures and the details are hard to ascertain. It is believed that a total 29 U.S. nuclear weapons are housed at the *Ghedi-Torre Air Base* *Aviano Air Base* in vaults.

With 11 vaults, the *Ghedi-Torre Air Base* is located in eastern Lombardia and is home to the 6th wing unit of the Italian Air Force. Tornado aircraft are also housed at Ghedi.

Aviano, in the northeastern part of Italy and at the base of the Italian Alps, is about 20 miles north of Pordenone and houses 18 vaults. The U.S. Air Force operates Aviano, which also has F-16 fighter jets. Reportedly, when the 25 nuclear bombs which had been stored at the Greek Araxos Air Base were withdrawn in January 2001, the military equipment was transferred to Aviano. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/agency/usafe-munss.htm>

2. Location and Capability of Nuclear Facilities

Power Reactors

Since 1990, all four of Italy's power reactors have been shut down.

According to the IAEA, "A return to nuclear power, in Italy, is for the moment not foreseeable."

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2002/Documents/Documents/Italy%202002.pdf>

Research Reactors

Operational: 5

Shut down: 4

Decommissioned: 5

Under construction: 0

Planned: 0

<http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom/rrdb/>

3. Fissile Material Holdings

Separated Civil Plutonium: 1.0-1.5 metric tons

Cumulative Plutonium Discharges from Civilian Power Reactors: 5.7 metric tons

<http://www.isis-online.org/publications/puwatch/puwatch2000.html>

Radioactive Waste Management

Some spent fuel is sent to the U.K. for reprocessing; the rest is stored at ENEL and Avogadro. Dual-purpose metallic containers are used on temporary on site storage facilities for irradiated fuel.

Interim storage facilities may be built at Trino and/or Caorso.

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2002/Documents/Documents/Italy%202002.pdf>

A ministry statement dated 14 December 1999 declared three goals as part of Italy's nuclear power phase out plan:

- 1- "Treatment and conditioning within a 10 year period, of all liquid and solid radioactive waste currently in on-site storage, mostly issued from the operation of plants, with a view to subsequent transport to a national waste repository
- 2- Site selection and construction of a national repository for low and intermediate level wastes, also within 10 years; the same site would be used for temporary storage of high level long lived wastes, particularly spent fuel and wastes resulting from reprocessing: the final selection of a site for waste disposal facilities has not been made yet;
- 3- Decommissioning of the nuclear plants in about 20 years, proceeding directly to the dismantling stage in order to reach the site release with no radiological constraints."

These goals were reaffirmed with a decree from the Ministry of Industry on 7 May, 2001.

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2002/Documents/Documents/Italy%202002.pdf>

4. Nuclear Activities

Research Programs

I'CAN 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 Center for Theoretical Nuclear Physics; Elettra Synchrotron Light Source; Eurotherm; ICTP: International Centre for Theoretical Physics; INFN: Istituto Nazionale per la Fisica della Materia; INF: Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare; JRC Ispra Environmental Institute; LNF: Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati

Nuclear Cooperation Programs

At present, the Italian company Ansaldo participates in a joint venture with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) for construction of five CANDU reactors in Cernovoda, Romania.

Sogin, another Italian company, works in on-site assistance and decommissioning programs in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Italy also ships some of its spent fuel for reprocessing in the U.K.

5. International Nonproliferation Efforts

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
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, 1 February 1999
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 4 May 1975
Outer Space Treaty, 4 May 1972
Partial Test Ban, 10 December 1964
Sea Bed Treaty, 3 September 1974

Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament
Nuclear Suppliers Group
Hague Code of Conduct
Missile Technology Control Regime
Proliferation Security Initiative
Wasenaar Arrangement
Zangger Committee

Italy has signed and ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol; however, as the Protocols for all E.U. countries enter-into-force through an IAEA-EURATOM arrangement, the Protocol has yet to enter-into-force. (See reference 43, page 18.)

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

NPT universalization: “The European Union reiterates its request to India and Pakistan to adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to act in compliance with UN Security Resolution 1172.” - **Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, on behalf of the E.U., addressing the General Assembly, 2003.**

FMCT and PAROS: “(Italy)stands ready to support the establishment of a subsidiary body at the CD to deal with this matter on the basis of a mandate, which will be subject of an agreement by all. We wish to recall, however, that the negotiation at the CD on a non-discriminatory and universal treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devises (sic) (FMCT) constitutes a priority.”- **Ambassador Carlo Trezza, on behalf of the E.U., in their Explanation of Vote on First Committee draft resolution L.44, “Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space,” October, 2003.**