Message

From: Kasman, Mark [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=419892C6FDC74087B775ABB683821344-MKASMAN]
Sent: 5/23/2017 12:39:34 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy; Phillips, Anna [Phillips.Anna@epa.gov]; Finman, Hodayah [Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov]; Besch, Brianna [besch.brianna@epa.gov]
CC: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: RE: Italy Scenesetter for Visit of EPA Administrator Pruitt for Rome Meetings and G7 Environment Ministerial in Bologna, June 5-13

I've eaten at the one in Chicago! It is very popular.

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:35 AM
To: Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Phillips, Anna <Phillips.Anna@epa.gov>; Finman, Hodayah <Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov>; Besch, Brianna <besch.brianna@epa.gov>
Cc: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: RE: Italy Scenesetter for Visit of EPA Administrator Pruitt for Rome Meetings and G7 Environment Ministerial in Bologna, June 5-13

My pleasure!

Also of note is a footnote on Eataly, that we'll add to Kelly's briefing materials and would be good info for the administrator:

Eataly's founder Oscar Farinelli opened a New York store in Aug. 2011 with American partners Mario Batali, Lidia Bastianich, and Joe Bastianich. Eataly continues to expand internationally with five in the U.S., three in Japan, two in Dubai and South Korea, and one in Germany, Denmark, Sao Paulo, and Turkey respectively, and with expansion planned to Brussels, Hong Kong, Johannesburg, Vegas, London, Montreal, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Philly, Rio, Stockholm, Toronto, Sydney and DC. (Yay for you!)

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Environment, Science, Technology & Health Counselor
U.S. Embassy Rome
Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Official - Transitory
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Kasman, Mark [mailto:Kasman.Mark@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 2:16 PM
To: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy; Phillips, Anna; Hodayah Finman; Besch, Brianna
Cc: S Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: RE: Italy Scenesetter for Visit of EPA Administrator Pruitt for Rome Meetings and G7 Environment Ministerial in Bologna, June 5-13

Thanks Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 8:13 AM

To: Phillips, Anna <Phillips.Anna@epa.gov>; Kasman, Mark <Kasman.Mark@epa.gov>; Finman, Hodayah <Finman.Hodayah@epa.gov>; Besch, Brianna <besch.brianna@epa.gov>
Cc: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
Subject: FW: Italy Scenesetter for Visit of EPA Administrator Pruitt for Rome Meetings and G7 Environment Ministerial in Bologna, June 5-13

Here's the scenesetter!

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Environment, Science, Technology & Health Counselor
U.S. Embassy Rome

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Official
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From: SMART Core
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 2:12 PM

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Subject: Italy Scenesetter for Visit of EPA Administrator Pruitt for Rome Meetings and G7 Environment Ministerial in Bologna, June 5-13

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SBU

Action Office:	ECON, HR, RSO, GSO, PAS, FMO, AMB, DCM, POL, MGT, USSS, OCP
Info Office:	CONS_INFO

MRN:	17 ROME 680
Date/DTG:	May 23, 2017 / 231211Z MAY 17
From:	AMEMBASSY ROME

Action:	WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.:	13526
TAGS:	SENV, ECON, ENRG, TPHY, PGOV, OVIP, EUN, G-8, EPA, IT
Captions:	SENSITIVE
Pass Line:	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON DC
Subject:	Italy Scenesetter for Visit of EPA Administrator Pruitt for Rome Meetings and G7 Environment Ministerial in Bologna, June 5-13

Introduction: A Key Partner and Strong Ally

1. (SBU) Mission Italy welcomes you and your delegation to Rome and Bologna. The United States and Italy celebrate excellent bilateral relations, rooted in our unique cultural and historical ties. Italians are eager for engagement and your insights on Trump Administration environmental policies. Italy remains one of our most stalwart partners, closely aligned with the United States across our foreign policy agenda, and the United States has a vital interest in Italy's stability, security, and prosperity.

Italian Priorities for the G7 Presidency

2. (SBU) Italy has historically prioritized the G7 as a mechanism that cements its status as a first-tier economic and political power. Italy's G7 presidency has thus far emphasized management of "human mobility" (migration), stability in the Middle East/North Africa — especially in Libya, Italy's top foreign policy priority — prevention of terrorism, and economic growth and fiscal flexibility. The May 26-27 leaders' summit in Taormina, Sicily includes outreach events with several North and sub-Saharan African leaders to underscore Italy's focus on the Mediterranean and Africa. Italy's G7 agenda also focuses on climate change, trade, and protection of vulnerable migrants.

Environment Minister Galletti Welcomes You to his Hometown

3. (SBU) Your host for the Bologna G7 Environment Ministerial, Gian Luca Galletti, was appointed Minister of the Environment by former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on February 22, 2014. He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Bologna (the oldest university in the world) and is married with four children. He has held a variety of public offices, starting in 1990 as a city councilman in his hometown of Bologna (a city renowned for its food, its academic institutions, and its history of social activism). Since then, he has served as a regional councilman, led the Centrist Union in the Chamber of Deputies, and was an Under Secretary for the Ministry of Education and Research. Key issues for Minister Galletti include climate change, the circular economy, marine litter, and food waste, all of which Italy has included in G7 preparatory meetings (the first three for the Environment Ministerial, and food waste for the October 14-15 Agriculture

Ministerial). In Bologna, you will meet Minister Galletti at a food research, workshop, production, and restaurant center created by successful Italian gourmet food chain Eataly, which is pioneering methods of reducing food waste.

Climate Change, Resource Efficiency, Marine Issues Top Italy's Environment List

4. (SBU) The Italian government and civil society are both deeply concerned about the environment. Italy's ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change was heralded in the press and on the Environment Ministry's website, and there is a digital drumbeat of support online and in the media. As the G7 President, Italy has infused climate language in documents for the Environment and Health Ministerials, and included a focus on "energy transition" to alternative energy sources in the Energy Ministerial. Civil society is also engaged: eight representatives of 30 environmental groups petitioned Embassy Rome in January to encourage the U.S. government to participate in international climate activities. Key topics on the agenda for the Environment Ministerial include Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate change (including a separate session on SDGs, multilateral development banks, and climate change in Africa); green finance and jobs for the environment; marine litter; resource efficiency, the three Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle), and the circular economy; removing environmentally perverse subsidies; and ecological taxation reform. In February, Italy gave five million euro to the UN Environmental Fund for "greening" the marine economy and boosting resource efficiency. Since 2014, Italy has contributed over 10.5 million euro to this fund.

Domestic Politics: Gentiloni Provides Policy Continuity

5. (SBU) Former Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni succeeded the reformist Matteo Renzi as Prime Minister in December, following Renzi's resignation in the wake of a failed constitutional reform referendum that would have reduced the size of Parliament and streamlined the legislative process. Gentiloni, a strong ally of Renzi within the Democratic Party (PD), has pledged policy continuity, and his studious and soft-spoken leadership has been welcomed by Italy's EU partners. Renzi remains leader of the governing PD, and continues to be seen as a mainstream political leader capable of holding back the populist tide in Italy, led by the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S) and the far-right, Euroskeptic Northern League (*Lega Nord*). While incompatible in many ways, both M5S and the *Lega* urge a politically and economically destabilizing withdrawal of Italy from the Eurozone, criticize NATO, and call for the immediate lifting of sanctions against Russia, irrespective of Minsk implementation.

Renzi Regains Post as Democratic Party Secretary, Eyes Return to PM Role

6. (SBU) On April 30, Renzi won re-election as PD Secretary and is expected to lead the party into national elections, probably in early 2018, though fall elections cannot be ruled out. Renzi has a fighting chance of getting back into the Prime Ministry, but the political scene is fragmenting fast. According to current polls, no party is likely to win a governing majority under Italy's convoluted electoral law – an outcome that likely would preclude the rise to power of populists uncommitted to the U.S.-Italy strategic partnership, but also the political mandate a government will need to undertake the structural reforms Italy truly requires.

Foreign Policy: Gentiloni Government Committed to EU Integration

7. (SBU) Gentiloni has provided Italian foreign policy continuity, including pro-European Union leadership. In March, he hosted the leaders of the EU-27 for the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. The resulting Declaration of Rome — signed by all 27 (excluding the UK) EU member states — is a restatement of EU unity with an allusion to the multi-speed integration Italy favors (with Italy in the fast lane). Like the Renzi

government, the Gentiloni government has been vocal on the need for European institutions to deliver on their promises of prosperity and restore public trust. The Italian government urges increased EU integration and greater risk-sharing among EU member states with a sharper focus on economic growth, employment and social inclusion.

Economic Growth Remains Sluggish Due to Low Productivity

8. (SBU) In 2015, Italy emerged after three hard years from its deepest recession since the Great Depression, helped by euro depreciation, low oil prices, and low bond yields. Nonetheless, per capita GDP fell 10 percent from its 2007 peak and is not expected to recover until 2025. Italy's unemployment rate averaged 12 percent in 2016 and is projected to remain in double digits until at least 2020, with high youth unemployment driving the next generation abroad in search of work. The recovery is expected to remain modest, with GDP growth of 1.1 percent in 2017 and 1 percent growth in 2018 and 2019, according to official estimates. Low productivity and a challenging business climate hinder Italy's potential growth. Exports remain a comparative strong point, with Italy posting its highest trade surplus in its history in 2016.

Migration Crisis Strains Resources

9. (SBU) Italy is the primary European point of entry for irregular migrants and asylum seekers. It has commanded the EU anti-human-smuggling mission in the Mediterranean since 2015. More than 181,000 irregular migrants and asylum seekers arrived in 2016 (25,800 of them unaccompanied minors), a record that 2017 is set to exceed. Most new arrivals transited Libya and were rescued at sea by Italian and other European naval vessels, and also by NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders. Most are from West Africa, with Guineans and Nigerians constituting the largest single groups; asylum claims from Syrians and Iraqis, which were common a few years ago, are far fewer. Over 90 percent of those rescued at sea are identified (cross-checked against and entered into the Schengen Information System database), interviewed, and registered upon arrival in Italy. A lengthy appeals process for failed asylum claims and a lack of repatriation mechanisms mean most remain in Italy indefinitely – all the more so, as Schengen rules have largely been suspended by most of Italy's neighbors, effectively blocking transit routes from Italy into northern Europe. Italian authorities continue to assert that extremist groups are not actively exploiting the migration route to coordinate terrorist travel to Italy. Nonetheless, authorities do not rule out that individual fighters dislodged from areas formerly under ISIS control in Libya could slip onto migrant boats to reach Italy.

Committed to Defeating ISIS

10. (SBU) Italy deploys nearly 1,500 troops in Iraq, second only to the United States. With its paramilitary *Carabinieri* force in the lead of the international police training program, Italy has trained more than 17,600 members of Iraq's security services. The Iraq mission enjoys popular support, as the Italian public views it as addressing key drivers of migration and regional destabilization. Domestically, Italian law enforcement is advanced in its capacity to detect and deter terrorist activity. Italy's long history of combating both organized crime and radical ideological movements has given it a strong legacy in fighting internal threats to security. Authorities are leveraging those capabilities to combat terrorist recruitment, radicalization, and networking. Italy has established an interagency mechanism, the Center for Strategic Antiterrorism Analysis (CASA), through which the national police, the *Carabinieri*, specialized law enforcement agencies such as the *Guardia di Finanza* (financial police), and the intelligence services coordinate counterterrorism efforts, review terrorist threats and share information. CASA has been held up as a model for other EU countries to emulate. Italy also has the capacity to act quickly on threat information and the authority to swiftly expel any non-citizen suspected of "seriously disturbing public order, endangering national security, or religious discrimination," even if insufficient evidence exists to prosecute the individual.

Russian Sanctions and Counter-Sanctions: Italy Will Remain Firm (as Long as We Do)

11. (SBU) Despite grumbling from opposition political factions, Italy is likely to maintain consensus on Ukraine-related Russia sanctions as long as France, Germany, and the United States hold the line (even as Italy argues for the utility of increased dialogue with Russia). Italy continues to call for a political discussion about the status of Russian and Ukrainian compliance with Minsk (rather than an automatic rollover) when sanctions come up for renewal in Brussels; however, all past EU political discussions of this nature have resulted in Italy agreeing to renew sanctions. Italy follows UN and EU sanctions regimes and is a willing interlocutor for exchanges of information on sanctions. Italian exporters, particularly those in the food and agricultural sectors affected by Russian counter-sanctions (including Parma ham and Parmigiano cheese producers from Emilia-Romagna, the region in which Bologna is located), express concerns not only about loss of revenue, but also the permanent loss of the Russian market.

Signature: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Drafted By: ROME: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Cleared By: PA: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
AGRI
FAS: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
ECON: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy
POL: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Approved By: EXEC: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Released By: ROME: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Info: Kasman, Mark *ROUTINE*; Phillips, Anna *ROUTINE*

Action Post: NONE

Dissemination Rule: ECON, CONS_INFO, HR, RSO, GSO, PAS, FMO, AMB, DCM, POL, MGT, USSS, OCP