



Ministero degli Affari Esteri

DIREZIONE GENERALE PER GLI AFFARI
POLITICI E DI SICUREZZA

Proliferation Security Initiative High Level Political Meeting

Warsaw, 28 May 2013

Delegation of Italy – National Statement

Madame Chair,

I wish first of all to thank and commend the Government of Poland for the tremendous effort they have undertaken in organizing so well this High Level Political Meeting marking the tenth anniversary of the creation of PSI.

At the outset I wish to reiterate Italy's full commitment to the PSI principles, as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains a major threat to international security.

PSI has a specific added value, thanks to its operational dimension, which consists of military exercises, workshops and training programmes. Italy took part in the latest "Leading Edge" exercise held in Abu Dhabi last February. The exercise highlighted the importance of developing integrated systems to collect and manage sensitive information. Following the positive experience, we are working on a dedicated national interagency website for the collection, dissemination and updating of relevant information.

Participating in international exercises helps countries to self-assess their own capabilities to react to threats and to conduct interdiction activities. As a result, we welcome the role of PSI as an incentive for broadening capacities of the national authorities involved. As an illustrative example, I kindly asked the Secretariat to

circulate a short paper highlighting an interesting interdiction case in the port of Genoa involving our national Fire Brigades.

Italy endorses all of the four Joint Statements, as each of them underlines a key aspect of the Initiative that we should all commit to improve. Italy also strongly endorses the Joint Declaration on strengthening European cooperation in the Mediterranean Sea. No need to dwell on the critical importance of the area.

We need a robust Initiative in order to strengthen our capabilities to reduce access to WMD by State and non-State actors of proliferation concern. We need stronger Authorities that share relevant information. We also have to keep supporting the approach of the Critical Interdiction Capabilities and Practices, as it provides us with a platform for the improvement of the legal framework for interdictions as well as for identifying and seizing materials. And we share the Joint Statement on Expanding Strategic Communications, particularly with reference to the promotion of outreach activities towards PSI non-endorsing States and to the public.

Strengthening membership and building up an international network promoting awareness on the risks connected with the proliferation of WMD is functional to an effective PSI. In this regard I would like to recall the Third Edition of the International School on Nuclear Security, which was held at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste from 8 to 19 April 2013. The course provided professionals involved in the nuclear security sector coming from developing countries with a knowledge of the international legal framework on nuclear security and with awareness on the illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. The development of a strong nuclear security culture greatly contributes to the objectives of the PSI and to its “expanding strategic communication efforts”.

I also wish to recall the international cooperation activities we have undertaken with countries of particular interest for us, especially in the Balkans and in the MENA

region. These activities focus on the capacity building of customs authorities in the prevention of illicit flows, including WMD.

Together with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, the Italian National Customs Agency is implementing a project aimed at introducing a secure and real time data exchange among customs authorities.

The field of customs cooperation is crucial also with reference to outreach activities. In this regard, Italy is leading with Turkey a multilateral project with Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Jordan and Lebanon supporting the reform of customs authorities in these countries. The involvement of PSI non-endorsing States such as Algeria, Egypt and Lebanon is in our view a significant step towards a broader PSI membership.

Madame Chair,

The 10th anniversary of PSI we are marking today is an opportunity to redouble our efforts in contrasting the proliferation of the most dangerous weapons and materials, thus contributing to international security. Italy will continue to do its part.

Thank you for your kind attention.
