



# **Permanent Representation of Italy to the European Union**

# Who is who?



- Permanent Representative  
Amb. Maurizio MASSARI



- Deputy Permanent Representative  
Amb. Giovanni PUGLIESE



- Permanent Representative to the PSC  
Amb. Luca FRANCHETTI PARDO

# Our mission

- We play a central role in the **relations between the Italian Authorities** and the institutions of the **European Union** (Council, Parliament and Commission);
- The main mission is to promote and defend the Italian positions within the EU, particularly in the preparatory bodies of the Council of Ministers’.

# Permanent Representatives' Committee (COREPER)

- It is charged with the preparatory work of the EU Council as well as any task the Council decides to assign to it; it is structured into two different formations identified on the basis of their respective competences (COREPER II and I).
- The capacities of the COREPER are “horizontal”, since the body is tasked to prepare all the sectional EU Councils and discuss the Commission’s proposals in a pre-negotiating phase;
- The COREPER plays a fundamental role in the EU decision-making mechanism, being at the same time a forum of dialogue and a politically monitoring body.

# COREPER II

- General Affairs
- Foreign Affairs
- Development cooperation
- Economic and Financial Affairs (including the MFF)
- Justice and Home Affairs
- Preparatory body of the European Council

# COREPER I

- Employment
- Social Policy
- Health and Consumers' Policy
- Competition
- Transportation
- Energy and Telecommunications
- Environment
- Education, Youth and Culture Councils

# Political and Security Committee

- The Political and Security Committee (PSC) is the competent body for the External and Common Security Policy (ECSP) and the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP);
- The Committee is tasked to monitor the evolution of the international situation, to contribute to the ECSP definition and to implement the decisions of the EU Council;
- Politico-Military Group (PMG); Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors (RELEX); Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom)

# Council working groups

- The Council working groups have informal character and are attended by representatives of the Member States who have a specific competence in the matters handled by the single groups;
- The Italian participation in the working groups is entrusted to members of the Permanent Representation, often assisted by capital-based colleagues (60 functionaries and “experts”).



# Foreign Affairs Council configuration preparatory bodies

- Ad hoc Working Party on the Middle East Peace Process (COMEP)
- Africa Working Party (COAFR)
- Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI)
- Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party (MaMa)
- Middle East/Gulf Working Party (MOG)
- Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (COEST)
- Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB)
- Working Party on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA)

# Foreign Affairs Council configuration preparatory bodies

- Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM)
- Working Party on the OSCE and the Council of Europe
- United Nations Working Party (CONUN)
- Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP)
- Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV)
- Working Party on Global Disarmament and Arms Control (CODUN)
- Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

# Italian presence in the European Institutions

- The Permanent Representation monitors the presence of Italian officials in the European institutions;
- The unit also oversees the officials' career developments in order to ensure an adequate Italian presence at all levels, including senior positions.
- This effort, combined with similar actions from the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of External Affairs, also covers the Seconded National Experts and the structural stagiaires

# Relations with the European Parliament

- The Unit for the relations with the EP is in charge of liaising with the European Parliament (EP) within the Permanent Representation;
- The main task of the Unit is to monitor the EP activities and maintain close contacts with the Members of the Parliament (MEPs) in order to promote the Italian national interests.
- And more: infringement procedures; state aid; legal issues; Italian presence in the European institutions; relations with the media.

# Legal issues

- The Permanent Representation's legal unit is mainly charged with:
  - providing advice on institutional issues, primarily on those linked to COREPER II activities;
  - providing advice, limited to the legal side, on files the experts' dossiers;
  - attending the relevant Council working groups, especially the Court of Justice group;
  - maintaining regular relations with the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

# Infringement procedures

- In order to cooperate with the relevant national Authorities for a timely and fair implementation of the EU legislation, the Permanent Representation avails itself of a specific Infringement Procedures Unit whose main tasks are the following:
  - acting as contact point between the EU Commission and the national Authorities;
  - providing consultancy and assistance to the specifically concerned subjects, in order to contribute to the solution of the pending controversy;
  - facilitating the relations with the EU Commission services, including the possible promotion of specific meetings with regard to the single dossiers;
  - maintaining updated the picture of the Italian pending cases and elaborating the related statistical figures.

# State aid

- In the State Aid sector, the Representation assists national Administrations in notifying the Commission of the measures to be adopted;
- Moreover the Representation, when deemed necessary, arranges meetings with the Commission in order to facilitate and speed up the subsequent examination of the proposed measures;
- During the whole procedure, the Representation carries out a connecting role with the Commission' General Directorates competent on the issues thus helping the adoption of a positive decision;
- Representation officials also attend multilateral consultations set up by the Commission during the revision process of the Community policy on the matter.

# Relations with the Committee of the Regions

- The main task is to awaken the Members of the body to the Italian national interests with regards to the matters at the center of the Committee's agenda.
- The Representation entertains regular contacts with the Italian delegation within the Committee and promotes meetings on a regular basis with the different sections of the Permanent Representation itself in order to guarantee a mutual exchange of information and opinions.



# Euroregions

- **Euroregion:** refers to a transnational co-operation structure between two (or more) contiguous territories located in different European countries;
- Usually do not correspond to any legislative or governmental institution or have direct political power;
- Their work is limited to the competencies of the local and regional authorities which constitute them;
- They are usually arranged to promote common interests across the border and cooperate for the common good of the border populations.

# Tyrol–South Tyrol (Alto Adige)– Trentino Euroregion

