ORGANISATION MARITIME INTERNATIONALE

F

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDRES SE1 7SR
Téléphone : +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Télécopieur : +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Lettre circulaire No 3615
6 janvier 2016

Destinataires : Membres de l'OMI
Organisation des Nations Unies et institutions spécialisées
Organisations intergouvernementales
Organisations non gouvernementales bénéficiant du statut consultatif

Objet : **Communication du Gouvernement italien**

Le 21 décembre 2015, l'Ambassade d'Italie au Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord a fait parvenir à l'Organisation la communication[1] ci-jointe, en demandant au Secrétariat d'en assurer la diffusion.

***

[1] En anglais seulement.

Ambasciata d'Italia
Londra

NOTE VERBALE 2629

The Italian Embassy presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization and has the honour to inform that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in agreement with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry for Economic Development, CNR, ENEA and other scientific institutions have released the national guidelines (here attached) "Towards an Italian Strategy for the Arctic".

The guidelines give an idea of Italy's commitment and its role in the Arctic region, taking a series of steps, on a national as well as on an international level. Italy is set to get increasingly involved in all avenues of Arctic cooperation, be it on a multilateral level or bilaterally, with each of the Arctic States. Actions by the Government of Italy will of course be fully in line with the principles and goals of the European Union environmental policy, as well as with all relevant international obligations. In particular, to those pertaining to sustainable development – that is, the compatibility and the synergetic relationship between economic growth, the protection of the environment and the specific needs of the indigenous people.

The Italian Embassy requests that a copy of this letter be circulated among the Member States of the International maritime Organization as well as to other competent bodies of IMO.

The Italian Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization the assurance of its highest consideration.

London, 21 DEC 2015

AMBASCIATA D'ITALIA
LONDRA

International Maritime Organization
4, Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR

TOWARDS AN ITALIAN STRATEGY FOR THE ARCTIC

NATIONAL GUIDELINES

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2015

1. ITALY IN THE ARCTIC: MORE THAN A CENTURY OF HISTORY

The history of the Italian presence in the Arctic starts in 1899, when Luigi Amedeo di Savoia, Duke of the Abruzzi, sailed from Archangelsk with his ship (christened *Stella Polare*) to use the Franz Joseph Land as a stepping stone - the plan was to reach the North Pole on sleds pulled by dogs. His expedition missed its aim, though getting to previously unattained latitudes. In 1926 Umberto Nobile managed to cross for the first time the Arctic Sea from Europe to Alaska, taking off from Rome together with Roald Amundsen (Norway) and Lincoln Ellsworth (USA) on the *Norge* airship (designed and driven by Nobile). They were the first to reach the North Pole, where they dropped the three national flags. [1] Two years later Nobile went for a new feat on a new airship, called *Italia*. Operating from Kings Bay (Ny-Ålesund), *Italia* flew four times over the Pole, surveying unexplored areas for scientific purposes. On its way back, the airship crashed on the pack, north of the Svalbard Islands, and lost nearly half of its crew. [2] The wreckage was linked to adverse weather, including a high wind blowing from the northern side of the Svalbard Islands to the Franz Joseph Land: this wind stream, previously unknown, was nicknamed *Italia*, after the expedition that discovered it. [4]

Nobile's expeditions may be considered as the first Italian scientific missions in the Arctic region. His activity laid the foundations for further Italian achievements in Arctic oceanography, meteorology, geography and geophysics: thanks to Nobile, Italy discovered its own "Nordic dimension". Moreover, the efforts by both Arctic and non-Arctic States aimed at rescuing the victims of the *Italia* shipwreck represent the first example of international cooperation in extreme weather conditions - so harsh that Amundsen, for instance, lost his life while attempting to come to the castaways' aid. Nobile's Arctic endeavors continued, as he was invited to Russia in order to take part in an exploration of the Franz Joseph Land area conducted by the *Malyghin* icebreaker ship. On his way back, Nobile remained in Moscow for six years. During his stay, he supervised and managed a number of *Aeroflot* airship building activities. [5]

The early Italian presence in the Arctic, anyway, is manifold. To make just one example among many possible ones: Silvio Zavatti, an explorer and anthropologist who devoted his life to the study of Nordic populations, especially the Inuit. Between 1961 and 1969 he organized five Arctic expeditions, whose three in Canada, one in Lapland and one in Greenland. His ethnographic research paved the ground to the birth of the "Silvio Zavatti Polar Institute" in Fermo, [6] which harbors the only Italian museum totally dedicated to Arctic subjects and publishes a specialized journal, aptly called "Il Polo".

The Italian record in the Arctic, therefore, is over one century old and the Italian Arctic footprint has been steadily increasing over time. Thanks to Nobile's work, as well as to the later establishment of a Svalbard scientific base by the National Research Council ("Dirigibile Italia"), to the Arctic oceanographic cruises by the OGS *Explora* research ship and to the activity of

[1] U. Nobile, *Gli Italiani al Polo Nord*, Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, 1959.
[2] Six crewmen and the airship superstructure were never recovered. The famous "red tent" was erected by Nobile, Malmgren (who died while looking for rescuers) Cecioni, Mariano, Behounek, Trojani, Viglieri, Zappi and Biagi.
[4] U. Nobile, *Addio Malyghin !*, Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, 1948.
[5] U. Nobile, *Storia aggiornata della spedizione polare dell'"Italia" - L'epilogo del dramma*, Roma, 1962.
[6] www.istitutopolarezavatti.it

various Italian companies, like Eni and Finmeccanica, in 2013 the Arctic Council granted Italy the observer status. Hence, Italy may be considered, among non-Arctic States, one of the most active in this area. Besides, the historical motivations of the Italian presence in the Arctic are nowadays compounded by new, urgent challenges largely dependent on global warming, whose repercussions are deeply affecting the Arctic region.

2. ITALY IN THE ARCTIC: THE POLITICAL DIMENSION

Italy was admitted to the Arctic Council as an Observer in May 2013. The Arctic Council ministerial meeting in Kiruna acknowledged the size and the importance of the Italian Arctic record, be it in science (e.g., by the creation of notable observation platforms in Ny Ålesund like the *Climate Change Tower* [7] as well as by a number of other research activities, including its oceanographic cruises in the Arctic waters [8]), or in business, notably via the investments by Eni - which, on top of its extraction programs in Norway and Russia, is implementing some remarkable projects aimed at improving safety conditions of maritime transport (against oil spill), mitigating its environmental impact and taking into account the role of indigenous, against the backdrop of an ecosystem rapidly evolving due to global warming phenomena.

The challenge posed to the Arctic environment by global warming requires to be tackled globally by the International Community, in close coordination with the Arctic States. The most important dialogue forum on this issue as far as the Arctic is concerned is represented by the Arctic Council. [9]

Italy deems the Arctic Council, with its articulated organization (Member States, Permanent Participants, Observers, Task Forces, Working Groups ...), to be the main debating arena, meant to dwell on the different features and issues of such a multifaceted region and to identify all viable cooperation forms. Twenty years after its establishment, the Arctic Council has grown into a larger dimension by comparison to the initial idea of an inter-Arctic consultation forum: it is in fact also a vehicle of regional stability, whose increasing relevance is testified inter alia by the multiplication of its Observers - including some European Union member States and Asian Countries. [10]

Bearing in mind that change in the region depends mainly on phenomena occurring at different latitudes, whose repercussions are tangible on a global scale, a common approach is needed in order to deal with such new challenges - from global warming to the opening of Polar navigation routes. Assuming that a global phenomenon calls for a global approach, this entails new responsibilities not only for the Arctic States but also for the International Community as a whole.

[7] CCT: www.isac.cnr.it/~radiclim/CCTower
[8] https://sites.google.com/site/ipynicestreams/home
[9] http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/
[10] Members are: Canada, Denmark, Russian Federation, Finland, Iceland, Norway, U.S.A. and Sweden. Observersi: China, Korea, France, Germany, Japan, India, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom, Singapore, Spain. The UE participates as an observer; its status, anyway, is still to be defined.

National sovereignty of Arctic States is a given, completed and integrated by customary international sea law and by a number of Treaties, the most important being the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).[11] As a party to UNCLOS, Italy abides by its clauses, including those related to a responsible management of the Arctic Ocean. Italy of course abides also by the rules of other legal instruments that indirectly concern the Arctic region: the Convention on Biological Diversity, [12] the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, [13] the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), [14] the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). [15] Italy, moreover, is one of the original signatories to the Svalbard Treaty. [16]

The Arctic area includes large portions subject to individual national sovereignties. While fully respecting those sovereign rights, Italy stands ready to play its part to confront global challenges through its scientific and technological skills, as well as through its leading businesses, thus contributing to a sustainable Arctic development, mindful of the ecosystem and of indigenous peoples. Due to the primary relevance of the human dimension, Italy considers it to be of a capital importance that awareness about such issues be raised, in an incremental, internationally coordinated effort, working in concert with Arctic States.

Against this backdrop the European Union, that in practice participates in Arctic Council activities as an observer, [17] has been lately raising its profile as far as policies aimed at opposing global warming are concerned. In 2008 the European Commission adopted a document entitled "The EU and the Arctic region", [18] axed on the consequences of climate change and new human activities in the Arctic, followed in 2012 by a Commission/EEAS Joint Communication, [19] whose content Italy shares. A new Commission/EEAS Joint Communication will be issued in the first quarter of 2016.

Accordingly, Italy has taken a series of steps, on a national as well as on an international level, so that its Arctic footprint, be it scientific or business-related, could prove to add value and at the same time demonstrate the Italian determination to contribute to a progressive, further integration of the international presence in the Arctic region. In the multilateral context, Italy takes part in the *Senior Arctic Officials* (S.A.O.) meetings (a specialized diplomatic representative has been appointed to the Arctic Council to this end) and in a number of Working Groups meetings, be it though its S.A.O., through its Embassies or by means of experts selected by the CNR or other Italian scientific agencies (mainly, ENEA, INGV and OGS).

Italy is committed to play its role in the Arctic Council dimension at all levels, from the *Task*

[11] http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm
[12] https://www.cbd.int/
[13] http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/lrtap_h1.html; http://www.emep.int/
[14] http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Prevention-of-Pollution-from-Ships-(MARPOL).aspx
[15] http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/International-Convention-for-the-Safety-of-Life-at-Sea-(SOLAS),-1974.aspx
[16] http://www.sysselmannen.no/en/Toppmeny/About-Svalbard/Laws-and-regulations/Svalbard-Treaty/
[17] http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/about-us/arctic-council/observers
[18] COM (2008) 763, final.
[19] *Developing a European Union Policy towards the Arctic Region: progress since 2008 and next steps* http://eeas.europa.eu/arctic_region/docs/join_2012_19.pdf

Forces to the *Working Groups*, where it provides an actual contribution to different streams of work thanks to the sizable competences of its scientific community.

Moreover, in the EU framework Italy has recently promoted contacts aimed at fostering interaction and dialogue between the stakeholders of the Baltic Region Strategy and those of the Adriatic-Ionic Strategy, in view of an exchange of experiences and best practices which might be further evolving towards a process of increasing integration between the actors of said Strategies. [20]

Italy considers the Arctic Ocean waters as being highly relevant also to the European Union. In this respect, Italy took an active part in the drafting of Directive no. 30/2013/EU of June 12, 2013 on safety of offshore oil and gas operations, by providing comments and proposals aimed at consolidating safety standards in the upstream offshore field. Said Directive underscores that *"the serious environmental concerns relating to the Arctic waters require special attention to ensure the environmental protection of the Arctic in relation to any offshore oil and gas operation, including exploration, taking into account the risk of major accidents and the need for effective response"*. [21] To this end, Italian institutions are willing to put their competences at the disposal of Arctic States, by cooperating in the framework of the Arctic Council, so that research and extraction of oil and gas in the Arctic region could be accompanied by the highest standards of safety and environmental protection.

Bilaterally, informal consultations with Arctic Council member States have been taking place in order to define possible fields of cooperation with Italy, both in the scientific and in the economic field. Later on, based on relevant results, "bilateral working tables" composed by scientists and business people from the two sides might be convened at regular intervals. Informal contacts with the Saami Council have also been conducted, [22] meant to trigger, in consultation with Italian academic institutions, new studies on the Arctic inhabitants' culture.

At national level many initiatives have been initiated to increase awareness about the Italian presence in the Arctic region and reinforce our proactive approach. On top of current scientific programs, an example is the *International Conference on Climate Change in the Arctic* organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in December 2014 at *Venice International University*, attended by the S.A.O.s of Arctic Council member States and representatives of CNR, Eni and Finmeccanica. [23] Moreover, the MFAIC has supported in 2014 two other similar initiatives: a conference on *Ice and resources: the Arctic as a new geopolitical scenario*, [24] organized in the Parliament House by IsAG (Istituto di Alti Studi in Geopolitica e Scienze Ausiliarie) with the participation of all Arctic Council States Ambassadors to Italy and a conference hosted by the MFAIC itself and organized by *Diplomacy*, as a part of the 6th *Diplomacy Festival*, on Environmental Sustainability and Use of Resources in the Arctic Region.

Furthermore, from March 7 to September 30 the *Società Italiana per l'Organizzazione*

[20] Cfr.: http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/; http://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/.
[21] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013L0030&rid=1
[22] www.saamicouncil.net
[23] http://www.univiu.org/images/stories/Arctic_Conference_Program.pdf
[24] http://www.geopolitica-rivista.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/locandina190214.pdf

Internazionale (SIOI), in partnership with the MFAIC and the Ministry of Environment, will be offering the first Italian Master course dedicated to Arctic issues (Master in Sustainable Development, Resource Geopolitics and Arctic Studies), aimed at developing capabilities and competences pertaining to green economy, energy geopolitics and responsible use of natural resources. [25]

An informal, open-ended consultation group, called "Tavolo Artico" (Arctic Table) has been recently re-activated. Its mandate concerns the exchange of information and the coordination of activities among the main Italian entities active in the Arctic (more than two dozen), under the MFAIC aegis. In the same vein, divulgation and outreach activities by various actors are encouraged and supported by the Italian institutions, with the aim to foster a more widespread interest for Arctic issues on a national scale.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN DIMENSION

The Italian approach to Arctic issues is based on the selection of actions and key instruments to be developed in the relevant contexts, including the promotion of "lessons learned" and the exchange and sharing of knowledge on specific aspects of environmental questions. Its roots also encompass a strong determination to raise awareness among the main stakeholders in the relevant discussion fora (notably, international negotiations and political processes involving environmental issues) by virtue of focused actions. A major role has to be played also by activities aimed at securing suitable financing flows from EU and international sources. Such activities, if adequately managed, will be instrumental in improving and strengthening the bilateral ties already existing with Arctic States, as well as in fostering new collaboration opportunities, thus triggering positive returns for the cooperating parties and for the Arctic as a whole, with beneficial repercussions on a global level.

Besides, cooperation and exchange of experiences with Arctic States can (and have to) represent also a development opportunity for Italy. Among specific subjects of national interest, one may cite sustainable urban environment, which constitutes one of the Italian Ministry of Environment's priorities. To this end, a major role is to be played by scientific and technological research, a sector where Italy can count on various high-level actors, notably in the context of the Arctic Council working groups.

Actions and key instruments will have to concentrate on environmental issues which appear as crucial in the Arctic environment, such as: biodiversity protection, air pollution prevention, climate change reversal, protection of sea waters and integrated management of coastal zones, including attention to water quality, natural resources management as well as management of environmental risk arising from maritime transport, tourism, mining and port operations.

3a. ENVIRONMENT

[25] http://www.sioi.org/pages/it/scuola-di-alta-formazione-internazionale/formazione/master-in-sviluppo-sostenibile-geopolitica-della-risorse-e-studi-artici.php?lang=IT

Italy shares with the Arctic region a number of similarities. First of all, the maritime and mountainous features of the Alpine areas, which make them particularly fragile and vulnerable not only to climate change, but also to all factors liable to alter their delicate equilibrium (such as fishing, hunting, pollution and tourism). If, more specifically, the Baltic and the Adriatic seas share similar features, peculiar to closed seas (mainly, scarce water circulation and renewal), the Italian mountain areas and the Arctic region suffer from similar problems related to geographical, social and technological isolation.

- *Maritime environment*

Parallel challenges affecting the Baltic and the Adriatic seas (and, to a certain extent, the Mediterranean as a whole) are their delicate ecosystem balance, their insufficient resilience to continuous or punctual polluting events and the severe consequences of global phenomena (for instance, sea level rise). Furthermore, the growing density of sea trade in Northern waters counts as a major challenge insofar as it entails a growing risk of accidents and environmental damage connected to possible oil spill. In this respect the MARPOL Convention on the prevention of pollution from ships represents for its parties, including Italy, the key international instrument.

Directive 2013/30/EU on offshore safety constitutes another relevant operative tool in the same field, by virtue of its cogent regulations on the construction and management of extraction facilities and guarantees to be provided by oil & gas operators (insurance, bond bails).

- *Air pollution and climate change*

Taking action to fight climate change in the Arctic is clearly a priority for regional actors; its universal recognition as a global priority is equally essential. Actions meant to raise awareness, by the public opinion and all relevant stakeholders, are likewise important.

Recently, most Arctic countries have been increasingly promoting policies aimed at curbing *Short Lived Climate Forcers* (SLCFs) levels: SCLFs are methane, tropospheric ozone, hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) and *black carbon*. Locally, most black carbon emissions come from wood burning and diesel engines. On an international scale, current actions are mainly geared at reducing emissions from ships that, due to the increasing development of Arctic sea routes, are likely to bring this kind of pollutants closer to the especially vulnerable Arctic areas. In fact, SCLFs are transboundary by nature and, while circulating in the atmosphere, tend to accumulate in the Arctic region though they are produced at lower latitudes (most black carbon found in the Arctic comes from middle latitudes). According to IPCC, [26] SLCFs reduction would significantly improve the ice and snow cover situation in the Arctic region.

Italy actively participates in the main international instruments dealing directly or indirectly with atmospheric pollution and climate change, namely:

[26] The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO): http://www.ipcc.ch/

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); [27]

- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [28] and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; [29]

- UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLTRAP). [30]

- *Biodiversity*

Biodiversity in the Arctic appears among the most vulnerable on our planet. Many international instruments are available as far as biodiversity is concerned, whose effectiveness has been proved over the past few years: Italy considers worthwhile that each of them be employed in the Arctic area through tailored actions and measures, to be implemented by international cooperation and partnerships. Italy takes an active part in the main vehicles to this end, such as:

- the already cited UN Convention on Biological Diversity, aimed at the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, also through international cooperation;

- the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, covering the conservation of plant and animal life with their habitats, the promotion of cooperation among States and the endangered/vulnerable species monitoring; [31]

- the Paris International Convention for the Protection of Birds in the wild state; [32]

- the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, aimed at protecting and effectively managing migratory animal species throughout their range; [33] in its framework, the *African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement* (AEWA) [34] is particularly relevant;

- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), regulating the international trade of plant and animal species verging on extinction. [35]

3b. HUMAN DIMENSION

- *Urban Areas*

Due to the distinctive features of Arctic areas, including their vulnerability, the role of urban

[27] http://newsroom.unfccc.int/
[28] http://ozone.unep.org/en/treaties-and-decisions/vienna-convention-protection-ozone-layer
[29] http://ozone.unep.org/en/treaties-and-decisions/montreal-protocol-substances-deplete-ozone-layer
[30] http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/30anniversary.htmlv
[31] http://www.coe.int/it/web/bern-convention
[32] http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/texts/protection.of.birds.1950.html
[33] http://www.cms.int/
[34] http://www.cms.int/en/legalinstrument/aewa
[35] https://www.cites.org/

development is of remarkable importance. Some Arctic States are pioneering in this field: for instance, Sweden, with its holistic approach to sustainable urban development. In other words, urban sustainable design should not be meant only as architectural and urban design, but also as a careful planning of interactions among all relevant subsystems (waste cycle management, energy, heating etc.) that allow a city to be environmentally effective and sustainable, thus improving the quality of life. Such an holistic approach to sustainability in urban areas constitutes nowadays an integral part of the *"smart city" concept*.

Urban sustainable development is an Italian national priority. It will be pursued in the framework of the relevant international instruments, notably the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme [36] and the HABITAT III negotiations. [37]

- *Indigenous peoples*

Being both vulnerable and marginal, many areas in the Arctic constitute highly fragile realities. Indigenous peoples are confronted with ecosystem alteration, loss of biodiversity and the side effects of unregulated hunting and fishing. Anyway, social issues linked to connectivity (or the lack of) are not to be underrated, as they jeopardize socialization, career development and business opportunities - similarly to what happens in some Alpine areas. In this respect, useful cues could be found in the Alpine Convention [38] body of work, which is intended to improve general services accessibility for Alpine dwellings affected by the higher degree of isolation, by fostering organizational innovation and underscoring the need for general services accessible to the population as a whole.

4. THE SCIENTIFIC DIMENSION

4a. CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Against the backdrop of growing concern about the risk emerging from climate change, the scientific community is attempting to keep pace with the complexity of processes, interactions and feedbacks that underpin such phenomena. A need arises to deepen the knowledge of the Earth system, so that reliable and sustainable solutions may be identified. In particular, more Arctic observation is urgently needed, be it by means of coordinated monitoring aimed at improving the forecasting quality of meteorological and climatic model as well as the understanding of the Arctic system/of its role in the Earth system, or through experimental tests and oceanographic expeditions.

The permanent presence of sea ice, large ice sheets and permafrost on the ground are unique features of the polar regions that amplify, at a regional level, the impact of global climate change. With its distinctive features, the high latitudes radiation regime further increases the

[36] http://www.thepep.org/en/welcome.htm
[37] Habitat III is the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to take place in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 - 20 October, 2016: http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii-conference/
[38] http://www.alpconv.org/it/convention/default.html

system's sensitivity to changes and contributes to the amplification of changes. The peculiarity of the Arctic system lead to strong and complex interconnections among physical, chemical, geological and biological components of the system itself, which are amplified by feedback processes and by the system's overall complexity. Such an intricate problem requires a broad and intense collaborative effort on an international scale, so that the different observation capabilities, databases and analytical methods could be harmonized, resulting in higher levels of understanding. This, in turn, will allow for a realistic decision making process on choices concerning the business potential/the use of resources, on the one hand, and the mitigation of climate change effects, on the other. International collaboration in this field represents the main avenue to foster opportunities to promote the national interest, be it political or business-based.

Italian Base *Dirigibile Italia* - Ny-Ålesund

Since the Sixties, the former mining village of Ny-Ålesund, on the Svalbard Islands, has been transformed into an important research center dedicated to the Arctic environment and its components (atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, biosphere). There, international cooperation allows for and enhances the study of the complex interconnections between biological phenomena and physical, chemical, dynamical and radiation processes. Today eleven countries, including Italy, maintain research stations in Ny-Ålesund, where research projects and continuous monitoring activities take place all over the year. Science-related action in Ny-Ålesund is coordinated by NySMAC (*Ny-Ålesund Science Manager Committee*), a scientific and technical committee bringing together the eleven stations managers. Italy has been chairing the committee for to mandates, from 2001 to 2005.

"Dirigibile Italia", whose name recalls the 1928 expedition by Umberto Nobile, was open in 1997 as a multidisciplinary research station. It is managed by the Italian National Research Council; its research activities are coordinated by the CNR Department for Earth-system Sciences and Environmental Technologies.

Out of a surface of 330 square meters, 170 are office and labs space. The base is open all the year round, though it manned only while research activities are taking place. It can host up to seven researchers, working on: Atmospheric Chemistry & Physics; Marine Biology; Physics of the High Atmosphere; technological research, Geology and Geophysics; Glaciology, Nivology and *permafrost*; Paleoclimate; Oceanography/limnology; terrestrial Ecosystems; Environmental studies; Humane Biology and Medicine. Starting in 2009, three important multidisciplinary observation platforms have been added to the station: the Amundsen-Nobile Climate Change Tower (CCT), the aerosol and Gruvebadet interface processes lab (GVB) and a mooring (MD1) on the inside of the Kongsfjiorden.

Italian Polar Research ship OGS *Explora*

The OGS Explora, owned since 1989 by the National Institute for Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS), is an oceangoing multipurpose research vessel certified as capable of navigating and collecting data also in a polar environment.

As a multidisciplinary ship, it is equipped both with oceanography/biology laboratories and geophysical data acquisition systems. OGS *Explora* has been conducting ten research cruises in Antarctica and four around the Svalbard Island; moreover it has been employed in providing support activities to companies with offshore activities in the Arctic area (Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Fær Øer Islands).

The OGS Explora is 73 meters long with a gross tonnage of over 1400 tons, and can reach a cruising speed of 11 knots. The ship is integrated into the EUROFLEETS [39] research infrastructure (the European research vessels fleet, currently about to become an EFSRI [40] infrastructure), where it is made available to the scientific community for Polar areas. In addition, the ship is listed in MERIL [41] (European map of research Infrastructures). Her global oceanic vocation, coupled with its polar research specialization, are instrumental to international collaborative scientific initiatives.

In early 2016 the OGS Explora will start to undergo an intensive refitting process. By renewing some structural elements, laboratories and the accommodation space, her operational lifespan will be extended by 12 years, while increasing the number of onboard scientists up to 24 and widening the operational scope in the fields of geophysics, physical oceanography and biological oceanography.

4b. STRATEGIC GUIDELINES

The priorities and actions set out by the science community and by international coordinating bodies, scientific (ICSU, IASC, EPB) as well as political (Arctic Council, European Commission) in order to understand climate change appear to be aimed at:

1 - increasing the spatial and temporal resolution of the Arctic observation system and strengthening the level of coordination among different national initiatives;

2 - promoting the study and knowledge of a further dimension of the Arctic system, namely its complexity, as an integral component of the Earth system that plays a key role in causing the *Arctic amplification* phenomenon as well as the nature and entity of ongoing transformations. In this context, the sites were large quantities of relevant physical, chemical and biological

[39] http://www.eurofleets.eu/np4/home.html
[40] http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=esfri
[41] http://portal.meril.eu/converis-esf/publicweb/startpage?lang=1

parameters can be simultaneously obtained all over the year (also known as SuperSites) are of the highest importance;

3 - defining, at various levels (European or international), the scientific research agenda and priorities in the medium and long term, by means of projects as the *Coordination Support Action EU-PolarNet* [42] and initiatives like ICARP. [43] On an EU scale, the Arctic is listed as one of the "Scoping Paper for Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials" [44] priorities.

The overall objective remaining the consolidation of the Italian presence in the Arctic, as per past operational guidelines, the Italian science community, supported by the national research agencies (CNR, ENEA, INGV, OGS) and in line with the abovementioned international efforts, over the next few years is committed to:

A - *promoting the Italian participation in Arctic research as a national scientific and technological excellence,* optimizing the use of its resources and competences. Priority will be given on one hand to medium-long term continuous monitoring activities; on the other hand, to experimental activities on terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems. This objective will be pursued first of all by means of a solid, continuing experimental activity to take place in Ny-Ålesund, to be coordinated with the other Countries operating there and to be coupled with oceanographic activities, so that a significant contribution could be provided to the integrated study of the Ocean-Earth-atmosphere system. An active participation in the SIOS (*Svalbard Integrated Earth Observation System*) [45] initiative will allow to extend scientific interests and activities to the entire archipelago, while the oceanographic ship OGS *Explora* participation in the EUROFLEETS research infrastructure will contribute to enlarging the geographical horizon of research activities and promoting the Italian research systems on an European scale.

B - *enlarging the Italian presence in the pan-Arctic observation system, mainly on the basis of bilateral arrangements.* Ongoing contacts are meant to allow, over the next two-three years, for the launch of collaborations in Greenland and in Canada. East of Italy, initiatives will concentrate on Russia, Korea, China and Japan. A few specific arrangements are already in place; more may be activated via instruments such as the scientific and technological cooperation agreements promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the agreement between the CNR and the *Russian Foundation for Basic Research* (RFBR) and the agreement between the OGS and China's *First Institute of Oceanography* (FIO).

C - *reinforcing internationalization.* Italian research agencies (CNR, ENEA, INGV, OGS) already take an active part in international Arctic initiatives. The CNR is a member of IASC and EPB; moreover, it participates in the ECRA initiatives, in particular in the *Arctic Climate Stability and Change* Collaborative Programme promoted by AWI (Germany) and *Bjerknes Centre*

[42] http://www.eu-polarnet.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/redakteur/Members_documents/Tool-Kit/EU-PolarNet_FactSheet_2015.pdf
[43] http://icarp.iasc.info/
[44] https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/12.%20SC5_2016-2017_pre-publication.pdf
[45] http://www.sios-svalbard.org/servlet/Satellite?c=Page&pagename=sios/Hovedsidemal&cid=1234130481072

(Norway). The sharing of major oceanographic infrastructures (such as research vessels, perforation systems, ROVs) will contribute to a further internationalization of the Italian oceanographic research in the Arctic. Under IASC's aegis, CNR and OGS will carry on actively contributing to two of the Arctic Council *Working Groups* on sea and atmosphere-related matters (in particular, to AMAP). OGS was part of the Italian delegation to the *Arctic Circle 2014* event in Reykjavik; CNR is a contributor to the *International Polar Initiative* (IPI), [46] while representing since day one the Italian research community in SAON [47]. As far as major infrastructural initiatives are concerned, moreover, Italy has taken an active part in the SIOS *preparatory phase;* accordingly, it is planning to participate via CNR in its *interim phase* and to promote it on a national scale.

D - *participating in the European Arctic infrastructural strengthening action* promoted by the European Commission, by Arctic Countries and also by Mediterranean Countries like France (*iAOOS France - inner Arctic Ocean-Observing System* project). This objective will be pursued by further developing the Dirigibile Italia base as well as its observation platforms, through:

- taking part in the new research infrastructures promoted by the EC and by the *European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures* (ESFRI) [48] for the Arctic areas (e.g., SIOS);
- supporting the EFSRI infrastructures coordinated by Italy that are consolidating their presence in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions, namely EMSO - *European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and Water Column Observatory (*Europe-wide multidisciplinary network of marine observatories), [49] and EPOS - *European Plate Observing System,*[50] the infrastructure integrating the observation systems dedicated to terrestrial dynamics and tectonics;
- supporting the possible Arctic extension of the ESFRI ICOS - *Integrated Carbon Observation System* [51] infrastructure;
- conducting further oceanographic expeditions;
- participating in European *calls* in partnership with BAS, NPI, AWI and non-Italian Universities.

E - *developing synergies between Arctic activities by Italian research agencies and PNRA activities.* Such synergies will be fostered, first of all, by standardizing the management of data coming from both the Arctic and Antarctica, by means of an information system gathering all generated metadata and, as to the Arctic, acquired data as well. A second, highly important step will consist in the results divulgation and dissemination. Finally, the third step will concern the enlargement of the Italian polar science community, to be achieved through tailored training of young researchers.

F - *promoting and strengthening the collaboration among national actors (Agencies, Universities).* CNR, OGS and INGV are presently engaged in a 2012 project called ARCA - *ARctic: present Climate change and pAst extreme events,* involving nine Italian Universities. The wide synergies emerging in the ESFRI framework between SIOS, participated by CNR, and EMSO and

[46] http://internationalpolarinitiative.org/IPIhomepage.html
[47] http://www.arcticobserving.org/
[48] http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=esfri
[49] www.emso-eu.org
[50] www.epos-eu.org
[51] www.icos-ri.org

EPOS, both coordinated by INGV, will be further enhanced; in the same vein, the Italian Space Agency (ASI) will be involved in order to identify ways and means for feeding the *Cosmo-SkyMed* unique products into the pan-Arctic observation system.

G - *promoting technological innovation and experimenting actions*, mainly in the field of atmosphere observation (UAVs, extreme environments monitoring systems, air-sea-ice interface monitoring systems), marine observation (USVs, ROVs) and satellite observation (product development, cal/val), also by harmonizing and taking advantage of the ample experience gained by the Italian science community in the PNRA framework.

5. ECONOMIC DIMENSION

A number of studies [52] support the notion that the Arctic hosts significant, unexplored amounts of mineral and energetic resources (e.g., hydrocarbons and rare earth elements). Their possible exploitation represents a complex endeavor and, in many areas, still an impossible one, due to technological, infrastructural and financial constraints. The ongoing ice sheet thinning might make access to such resources easier than it is at the moment. In view of the delicate environmental conditions in the Arctic, however, ensuring the highest operation safety and ecosystem protection standards remains a peremptory requisite that implies sizable investments and a wide use of cutting-edge technology.

Italy is endowed with a significant track record in offshore oil & gas research and exploitation. At the same time, one of its distinctive features is the value of its cultural and environmental heritage, considered as a worldwide unique asset. Therefore, Italian institutions have been especially keen on the environmental compatibility of extraction activities, thus developing substantial competences that ensure safety performance levels among the best worldwide [53]: the Italian extraction industry, in turn, has been proving its technical quality since 1959, when the first offshore oil platform in European waters was put in place in Italy. Italian institutions can make their competences available to Arctic States, by cooperating at the level of A.C. working groups, in order to tackle the criticalities arising from the increase of industrial and anthropic activities in the Arctic.

In the Arctic, Italy is deeply committed to the investigation of climate change by means of its research agencies activities. Italy is equally in a position to comply with the need for infrastructures and services tailored to Arctic requirements, thanks to its top technology companies - in particular, those providing specialized services such as satellite-based control and offshore engineering, not to mention its capabilities related to energy, navigation and building.

It is also worth mentioning the remarkable Italian experience in the field of renewable energies. The first geothermal power plant was built in Italy at the beginning of last century; today, Italy remains one of the European leaders in geothermics and is willing to develop possible synergies with the Arctic countries, whose some have a comparably strong tradition in this field.

[52] See, for instance, http://energy.usgs.gov/RegionalStudies/Arctic.aspx

[53] Ministero Sviluppo Economico - Direzione Generale Risorse Minerarie ed Energetiche - *Rapporti Annuali*.

The Italian attitude to take on pioneering endeavors while coupling top technology use with the preservation of its heritage, therefore, constitutes the added value of the potential Italian contribution to Arctic growth and sustainable development.

According to central scenario drawn by the International Energy Agency (IEA) *World Energy Outlook 2014*, global energy demand is set to grow by 37% by 2040. [54] Along with renewable sources, Arctic resources may play a relevant role in quenching this energy thirst, an issue that does not concern a single State but all global actors. Related investments, anyway, will have to comply with a wide range of criteria: the need for sustainable development, taking into account the fragility of the Arctic ecosystem; the human dimension; financial constraints; compliance with relevant regulations; peculiar, hostile weather. Environmentally sensitive and remote areas call for a heightened commitment to safety as well as for careful risk analysis, top technology use and the selection of highly skilled manpower, coupled with continuing cooperation with indigenous peoples. The latter are the real experts on the Arctic environment, as they safeguard a unique heritage of thousand-years old traditions and culture, which should be protected and capitalized on by any business operating in the region.

Every Arctic stakeholder is interested in respecting such a peculiar and sensitive ecosystem. Italy supports an eco-sustainable management of Arctic fisheries stocks; commercial fishing should take into account its impact on the ecosystem as a whole and on the subsistence of Arctic inhabitants, preventing damage to non-commercial species and to marine biodiversity.

5a. ENI AND THE ARCTIC

Eni acknowledges the scientific evidence on climate change as listed in the IPCC *5th Assessment Report* IPCC (AR5), which ascertained the extreme probability of a meaningful connection between climate change and anthropic activities. Faced with such evidence, Eni is persuaded that all public and private actors should actively contribute to the mitigation of risks connected to climate change. As an energy global leading company, Eni has been committed over the years to satisfy energy demands by its clients while, at the same time, striving to mitigate the climate impact of its own production process and products. To this end, in the past ten years Eni has been implementing its three-pronged *Climate Strategy*:

- continuous improvements in its own energy efficiency and progressive reduction of emissions arising from its production activities;

- promotion of natural gas as a fuel for transition towards a *low carbon* economy;

- investments in renewable energy and "green products" development.

The climate change challenge is a global one that requires shared solutions. Italy therefore believes that GHG reduction programs with a business own products and production process should be integrated with a strong commitment to initiatives aimed at fostering synergies with public and private actors, aimed at reversing climate change.

[54] https://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEO2014_ES_Italian.pdf

For its part, Eni joined two public-private initiatives meant to curb methane emissions and flaring:

• *Climate and Clean Air Coalition,* coordinated by UNEP and aimed at reducing methane emissions in many fields, including Oil&Gas; in this framework, Eni is committed to report about its activities linked to improvements in monitoring and the reduction of methane emissions connected to natural gas production;

• *Global Gas Flaring Reduction,* coordinated by the World Bank, is aimed at progressively zeroing flare gas emissions; in 2014 Eni subscribed to the "zero routine flaring in 2030" goal, which they deem to be able to attain in advance.

Moreover, in 2014 Eni has embarked, together with other O&G major companies, on a voluntary program called *Oil&Gas Climate Initiative*. It's an ambitious action plan, meant to take part in the fight against climate change: it aims to strengthen proactive collaboration, information sharing and communication aspects in order to optimize GHG emission management by the oil & gas sector, thus contributing to the transition towards a low-carbon energy.

Assuredly, *carbon pricing* is one of the instruments leading to the goal of a de-carbonized economy. In this regard Eni published a public appeal to all Governments and UNFCCC, [55] calling for the introduction of carbon dioxide emissions pricing systems, so that a clear, stable and more ambitious regulatory framework could be created, also by harmonizing the existing national rules - whose current difference lead to distortions in completion (*carbon leakage*). [57] Such a development is likely to reduce uncertainty in *low carbon* technology investments, while encouraging the identification of more advantageous ways and means to decidedly curb carbon dioxide emissions on a global scale.

The Arctic constitutes a huge challenge for all companies, both in technology and management terms. If it provides with the opportunity of exploring new mineral resources, on the other hand it is characterized by sensitive and remote areas that oblige to increase safety measures and conduct a thorough risk analysis by deploying cutting-edge technology and highly skilled manpower.

Thus, Eni's approach to Arctic activities is based on the following principles:

- activities are to be performed in *ice free* offshore areas only, assisted by satellite iceberg control and remote monitoring of all perforation actions;

- operations are to be conducted only when repercussions on the marine environment (in particular, on mammals) are minimal, while guaranteeing site-specific biodiversity conservation modalities;

[55] http://www.eni.com/it_IT/media/comunicati-stampa/2015/06/Major_europee_oil_gas_lanciano_appello_tariffazione_emissioni_anidride_carbonica.shtml

[57] Delocalization of production facilities linked to higher environmental costs (e,g, compliance to the *EU Emission Trading Scheme*).

- the best perforation technologies are to be employed; well diameter to be kept at minimum; pressure management; use of *blow out preventers* and robotic oil spill prevention/restraint systems;

- local inhabitants have to be involved and informed; their activities have to be protected; their know-how is to be employed, notably as far as emergency management is concerned (fishing vessels, for instance, may help in detecting/restraining oil spills);

- use of technologies and evaluation/management criteria concerning environmental/social impact based on lessons learned via the current joint venture operations in the region.

In order to understand the Arctic environment reality and adjust to its sensitivity, Eni has also been discussing with a number of NGOs. As a result, brand-new engineering solutions have been identified for the cultivation of the *Goliat* field (located in the Norwegian Barents Sea), [58] so that the operation could be adapted to the area's extreme conditions (a particularly cold climate, extended darkness, communications difficulty) as well as to its fragile ecosystem and to the specific needs of the indigenous peoples. The floating production, storage and offloading unit (FPSO), that can store up to one million oil barrels, will receive half of its power supply from the mainland, through the longest similar submarine cable in the world. This will allow for a 50% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Furthermore, associated gas and production waters will be re-injected into the oilfield, thus minimizing emissions to the atmosphere and the marine environment.

6. CONCLUSION

Italy is about to reach the milestone of a century of scientific presence in the Arctic. Our footprint has been consolidating over time, thanks to the size and quality of the activities conducted by scientific institutions like CNR, ENEA, INGV and OGS, together with many Universities and other research centers.

Accordingly, Italy is set to get increasingly involved in all avenues of Arctic cooperation, be it on a multilateral level (in the Arctic Council and in other relevant fora) or bilaterally, with each of the Arctic States.

At home, the Government will keep on supporting the national research centers currently engaged in the Arctic; moreover, it will continue to promote a growing awareness of Arctic-related themes by the civil society, remaining fully available to collaborate with citizens and other actors who may be interested to know about the Arctic.

Actions by the Government will of course be fully in line with the principles and goals of the European Union environmental policy, as well as with all relevant international obligations. In particular, to those pertaining to sustainable development - that is, the compatibility and the synergetic relationship between economic growth, the protection of the environment and the specific needs of the indigenous peoples.

[58] http://www.eninorge.com/en/field-development/goliat/

MAE02751302015-12-18

Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

DGUE - D.G. Unione Europea

Protocollo Arrivo
Classifica NON CLASSIFICATO
Urgenza URGENTE

Protocollo	MAE02751302015-12-18	Data	18 DICEMBRE 2015		
Assegnazioni	BERLINO AMB / BRUXELLES RAP UE / COPENAGHEN AMB / HELSINKI AMB / L'AJA AMB / LONDRA AMB / MADRID AMB / MOSCA AMB / NEW DELHI AMB / OSLO AMB / OTTAWA AMB / PARIGI AMB / PECHINO AMB / SEOUL AMB / SINGAPORE AMB / STOCCOLMA AMB / TOKYO AMB / VARSAVIA AMB / WASHINGTON AMB				
Visione	DGAP - UNITA' FEDERAZIONE RUSSA EUROPA ORIENT. ASIA CENTR. / DGAP - UNITA' PESC - PSDC / DGAP - UNITA' PAESI AMERICA SETTENTRIONALE / DGMO.- D.G. MONDIALIZZAZIONE E QUESTIONI GLOBALI / DGMO - UFFICIO IV / DGSP - D.G. PROMOZIONE SISTEMA PAESE / DGSP - UNITA' COOPERAZIONE SCIENTIFICA E TECNOLOGICA / DGUE - UFFICIO I / DGUE - UFFICIO IV / GINEVRA RAP ONU / MIN AMBIENTE - UCD / MIN INFRASTRUTTURE TRASPORTI - UCD / MIN ISTRUZIONE UNIVERSITA' E RICERCA - UCD / MIN SVILUPPO ECONOMICO - UCD / NEW YORK RAP ONU / SEGR - UNITA' ANALISI PROGRAMMAZIONE DOCUMENTAZIONE STORICA / SEGR - UNITA' DI COORDINAMENTO / SSS - SEGRETERIA DELLA VEDOVA / STAM - SERVIZIO STAMPA				
Diffusione	LIMITATA	Modalita'	OPERATIVO	TUM	H/300/4/2
Oggetto	STRATEGIA ITALIANA PER L'ARTICO: VERSIONE IN INGLESE.				
Riferimento	MAE0267962015-12-10				
Redazione	GABRIELE.ALTANA				
Firma	GIUSEPPE.BUCCINO	Funzione	DIRETTORE GENERALE PER L'UNIONE EUROPEA		
Allegato 1	**ITALY_IN_THE_ARCTIC.PDF**				
Allegato 2					
Allegato 3					
Trattato in	CHIARO	Spedito il	18/12/2015 - 19:58:36		

Sintesi Approntata traduzione in inglese del documento nazionale di orientamento relativo all'azione italiana nell'Artico. Opportunita' di valorizzarne gli obiettivi e i contenuti presso le rispettive Autorita' di accreditamento.

Testo Ad integrazione di quanto inviato con il Messaggio in riferimento, si trasmette in allegato la traduzione in inglese del documento orientativo nazionale sull'azione italiana nell'Artico.

Si rinnova nell'occasione l'invito ad informare le rispettive Autorita' di accreditamento circa l'adozione delle Linee-guida italiane sull'Artico, valorizzandone i contenuti con le modalita' piu' idonee in ciascun contesto.

Si sara' inoltre grati se le Sedi che finora non hanno fornito riscontri in merito vorranno cortesemente riferire al riguardo, cosi' come indicare le coordinate degli addetti competenti per l'argomento. Cio' consentira' a questa Direzione Generale di trasmettere di volta in volta informazioni e aggiornamenti mirati.

MAE02679602015-12-10

Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

DGUE - D.G. Unione Europea

Protocollo Arrivo
Classifica NON CLASSIFICATO
Urgenza ORDINARIO

Protocollo	MAE02679602015-12-10	Data	10 DICEMBRE 2015		
Assegnazioni	BERLINO AMB / BRUXELLES RAP UE / COPENAGHEN AMB / HELSINKI AMB / L'AJA AMB / LONDRA AMB / MADRID AMB / MOSCA AMB / NEW DELHI AMB / OSLO AMB / OTTAWA AMB / PARIGI AMB / PECHINO AMB / SEOUL AMB / SINGAPORE AMB / STOCCOLMA AMB / TOKYO AMB / VARSAVIA AMB / WASHINGTON AMB				
Visione	DGAP - UNITA' FEDERAZIONE RUSSA EUROPA ORIENT. ASIA CENTR. / DGAP - UNITA' PESC - PSDC / DGAP - UNITA' PAESI AMERICA SETTENTRIONALE / DGMO - D.G. MONDIALIZZAZIONE E QUESTIONI GLOBALI / DGMO - UFFICIO IV / DGSP - D.G. PROMOZIONE SISTEMA PAESE / DGSP - UNITA' COOPERAZIONE SCIENTIFICA E TECNOLOGICA / DGUE - UFFICIO I / DGUE - UFFICIO IV / GINEVRA RAP ONU / MIN AMBIENTE - UCD / MIN ISTRUZIONE UNIVERSITA' E RICERCA - UCD / MIN SVILUPPO ECONOMICO - UCD / NEW YORK RAP ONU / SEGR - UNITA' ANALISI PROGRAMMAZIONE DOCUMENTAZIONE STORICA / SEGR - UNITA' DI COORDINAMENTO / SSS - SEGRETERIA DELLA VEDOVA / STAM - SERVIZIO STAMPA				
Diffusione	LIMITATA	Modalita'	INFORMATIVO	TUM	A/802/1/2/14
Oggetto	STRATEGIA ITALIANA PER L'ARTICO. PUBBLICAZIONE LINEE-GUIDA NAZIONALI.				
Riferimento					
Redazione	GABRIELE.ALTANA				
Firma	GIUSEPPE.BUCCINO	Funzione	DIRETTORE GENERALE PER L'UNIONE EUROPEA		
Allegato 1	**STRATEGIA_ARTICA__09.12.2015_.PDF**				
Allegato 2					
Allegato 3					
Trattato in	CHIARO	Spedito il	10/12/2015 - 17:42:31		

Sintesi Pubblicazione del primo documento nazionale di orientamento relativo all'azione italiana nell'Artico, redatto dal MAECI in collaborazione con MATTM, MISE, CNR ed altri Enti di ricerca ed Eni. Opportunita' di valorizzarne gli obiettivi ed i contenuti presso le rispettive Autorita' di accreditamento.

Testo

In virtu' della mole e della qualita' del ruolo nazionale nella regione artica, che nel 2013 valse all'Italia l'ammissione al Consiglio Artico in qualita' di Stato Osservatore, questa Direzione Generale ha messo a punto (allegato) il primo documento programmatico nazionale in materia. Analoghi documenti sono stati diffusi negli ultimi anni dagli Stati membri del Consiglio Artico (Canada, Danimarca, Federazione Russa, Finlandia, Islanda, Norvegia, Stati Uniti e Svezia) e dalla maggior parte degli altri osservatori (Cina, Corea, Francia, Germania, Giappone, India, Paesi Bassi, Polonia, Regno Unito, Singapore e Spagna). E' inoltre imminente una nuova Comunicazione Congiunta Commissione Europea/SEAE sull'argomento.

Alla redazione del documento "Verso una strategia italiana per l'Artico. Linee-guida nazionali" hanno collaborato il Ministero dell'Ambiente, il Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico, il CNR ed altri Enti di ricerca (ENEA, Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e Geofisica) nonche' l'Eni. Esso e' stato inoltre illustrato e commentato nell'ambito del "Tavolo Artico", gruppo informale di consultazione animato dalla DGUE che raggruppa 25 realta' del mondo accademico, della ricerca e delle imprese (oltre ai citati, ad esempio, ASI, Finmeccanica ed Istituto Geografico Polare; e' allo studio un allargamento a Fincantieri ed Istituto Oceanografico della Marina).

Lo scopo del documento, aperto a future modifiche legate all'evoluzione della materia, e' duplice.
Da una parte, mettere a fattore comune le azioni in corso ed ancorare a finalita' condivise le azioni da condurre in futuro, in un'ottica di sistema; dall'altra, realizzare uno strumento di comunicazione che valorizzi la qualita' dell'impegno accademico, scientifico ed imprenditoriale italiano nell'Artico, divulgandolo nel modo piu' appropriato a livello italiano ed internazionale (a tal fine, e' prevista una successiva versione in inglese).

In sintesi, dopo l'illustrazione delle attivita' in essere o programmate, il testo afferma che l'Italia intende approfondire in materia ogni ambito di cooperazione, sia nella sfera multilaterale sia a livello bilaterale, con i singoli Paesi artici. Inoltre, che il Governo continuera' a sostenere i centri di ricerca nazionali impegnati nell'Artico e ad operare nel senso di una crescente sensibilizzazione nei confronti della societa' civile, in un'ottica di piena disponibilita' a collaborare con cittadini ed enti interessati a meglio conoscere ed approfondire questa realta'.
Cio', naturalmente, in piena conformita' ai principi ed agli obiettivi della politica ambientale dell'Unione Europea ed agli strumenti internazionali in vigore, con particolare riferimento al tema dello sviluppo sostenibile - vale a dire, la compatibilita' e la relazione sinergica tra salvaguardia dell'ambiente, sviluppo economico ed esigenze specifiche delle popolazioni indigene, gia' del resto al centro dell'impegno dell'imprenditoria italiana nella regione.
Altrettanto ferma e' la determinazione italiana a rispettare pienamente i principi e le regole vigenti nell'ambito del Consiglio Artico, a partire dalla Dichiarazione di Nuuk (1993) - in particolare, quelli relativi allo status di Paese Osservatore.
A cura del Servizio Stampa e Comunicazione Istituzionale, i contenuti del documento formano l'ossatura di una nuova sezione "Artico" del sito www.esteri.it (consultabile all'indirizzo
http://www.esteri.it/mae/it/politica_estera/aree_geografiche/europa/artico); i Ministeri e gli Enti che hanno collaborato alla redazione hanno manifestato disponibilita' ad inserire a loro volta il testo nei propri siti istituzionali.

Alla luce di quanto precede, si sara' grati se le Sedi in indirizzo vorranno cortesemente prendere visione del documento ed informare le Autorita' di rispettivo accreditamento circa l'avvenuta adozione delle Linee-guida nazionali sull'Artico, valorizzandone i contenuti con le modalita' piu' opportune.
Si sara' inoltre grati per ogni eventuale riscontro in merito, cosi' come per un cortese aggiornamento sui funzionari incaricati di seguire l'argomento presso ciascuna Sede.