

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06ROME3205	2006-12-01 09:09	2011-02-03 16:04	UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	Embassy Rome

VZCZCXYZ0000

PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHRO #3205/01 3350932

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 010932Z DEC 06

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6632

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4442

RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0441

RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0537

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0843

RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 1775

RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0519

RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY 0385

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0483

RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0163

RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY 0122

UNCLAS ROME 003205

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE PASS TO USTR STAN MCCOY AND RACHEL BAE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [EINV](#) [KIPR](#) [PGOV](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: ANTI-COUNTERFEITING TRADE AGREEMENT (ACTA): ITALY

INTERESTED

REF: STATE 182554

This cable is SBU please protect accordingly, not for Internet distribution.

SUMMARY -----

¶1. (SBU) The GOI is interested in further discussing a possible ACTA, but underscores that Italy is committed to working within existing multilateral organizations and arrangements (i.e., the WTO and EU), and would have to evaluate very carefully adhering to any agreement outside these arrangements. Italy is interested in attending a preliminary ACTA meeting in Washington.

END SUMMARY.

¶2. (U) ECOMIN raised ACTA with MFA Deputy Director for Economic Affairs Minister Spinetti November 17, and with Undersecretary Gianni at the Economic Development Ministry, November 21. ECOMIN portrayed ACTA as a tool like-minded countries could use to advance the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) agenda dynamically and with fewer political difficulties than high-standards countries would encounter at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Union (EU), or even the G-8.

¶3. (SBU) Both Spinetti and Gianni agreed with ECOMIN in principle, expressed interest in the ACTA proposal, and indicated Italy agrees with ACTAQs proposed goals. Spinetti and Gianni also both indicated Italy should be part of the ACTA work-in-progress (at least as an Qinterested observerQ), and Spinetti suggested Italy might attend a launching session in Washington. However, Spinetti and Gianni highlighted ItalyQs commitment to multilateral organizations, such as WIPO, the EU, and the G-8, and emphasized that the GOI must evaluate taking steps outside these institutions very carefully.

¶4. (SBU) Spinetti also told ECOMIN that he had heard of a WIPO concern about ACTA Q that this agreement could potentially reduce WIPOQs leadership role in international IPR protection matters.

¶5. (SBU) ECONCOUNS then met with Fabrizio Pagani, Chief of Staff to Undersecretary to the Prime Minister, Enrico Letta, November 22. Pagani has the working-level lead on G-8 IPR issues for Italy, and is the POC for GOI on ACTA. Pagani told ECONCOUNS that he had already discussed ACTA with Assistant Secretary Christopher Moore during the recent G-8 working-level IPR meeting in Moscow. He underscored that the current GOI is very committed to working within existing multilateral organizations, and added that it would be Qeasier,Q if the Commission were also at any negotiating table. Pagani stated, nonetheless, that Italy is very interested in the proposal and could attend a preliminary session in Washington. That said, Pagani outlined a series of GOI concerns: - EU Commission Role in the Negotiations. Pagani does not believe the Commission has exclusive competence on IPR, but he does believe having the Commission at the table would make it QeasierQ for EU members in any eventual negotiation. - A Role for Countries with Weak IPR Enforcement. While he understood the rationale

for not including countries with weak IPR regimens (e.g., China and Russia), Pagani indicated that Italy would want to discuss further the exclusion of such countries. - Germany G-8 IPR Focus. Pagani also expressed concern over possible political sensitivities in pursuing ACTA, while Germany simultaneously makes IPR protection a top priority of their G-8 Chairmanship.

¶6. (SBU) However, when ECONCOUNS asked him directly if, all the above considered, Italy could actually participate in ACTA negotiations, Pagani replied Italy would, if it were in Italys own interest to do so. SPOGLI