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DE RUEHRO #0290 0431522

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7172

RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4481

INFO RUCNMEU/EU INTEREST COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS ROME 000290

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

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PLEASE PASS TO EB A/S SULLIVAN, EB/TPP/IPE JOELLEN URBAN, CANDY GREEN, JENNIFER BOGER, KAREN HOWLAND PLEASE ALSO PASS TO USTR: SHAUN DONNELLY, CHRIS WILSON, STAN MCCOY, RACHEL BAE, JAMES SANFORD, PAUL BURKHEAD, JENNIFER CHOE GROVES E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ECON EINV ETRD IT KIPR PGOV

SUBJECT: ANTI-COUNTERFEITING TREATY AGREEMENT (ACTA) - ITALY'S CONCERNS REF: A. 06 ROME 3243 B. 06 ROME 3205 C. 06 STATE 182554

¶1. This is an action request. See paragraph 4.

¶2. Counselor Fabrizio Mazza, head of the MFA's intellectual property office, contacted the Embassy regarding the Anti-Counterfeiting Treaty Agreement (ACTA) proposal. He said two sources (one USTR, another (unidentified) in Brussels) had informed him that the USG had presented the joint U.S.-Japanese ACTA proposal to the EU Commission in Brussels. Mazza is confused and concerned because he thinks it will be much more difficult to reach an agreement by involving the EU, and he understood the USG intent was to deal directly and preferably with only member states, instead of the Commission.

----- COMMENT -----

¶3. There is considerable GOI interest in ACTA. Post requests that to the extent possible messages to host governments be passed through host country Embassies via cable to ensure Embassies relate--and understand--USG views.

END COMMENT. -----

ACTION REQUEST -----

¶4. Post requests the following: clarification on the current status of the ACTA proposal, clarification on whether it has been presented to the Commission, and USG views on how a Commission role in negotiating ACTA would affect member state involvement.

END ACTION REQUEST. SPOGLI