

ii) Political

Italy will host the 1994 Economic Summit in Naples in July. As part of their preparations, the Italians have been exploring the possibilities of producing a leaner Summit which would focus on more informal, and hence, it is hoped, franker exchanges among leaders, rather than simply providing a forum for negotiations on communiqué language.

Canada and Italy share a range of interests, not only by virtue of their participation in the G-7, but also based on their membership in NATO, the CSCE, and the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) at the United Nations. Canada and Italy share similar views on the need for UN reform and especially, as substantial contributors to the UN budget and participants in peacekeeping operations, on the need for Security Council reform.

Canada and Italy have signed a number of bilateral agreements including most recently a Temporary Aviation Agreement and a revised Social Security Agreement. Bilateral relations between the two countries are excellent. Constitutional amendments adopted in 1992 which grant to Italian citizens living abroad the right to vote in Italian elections have, however, caused some concern in Canada both at the official level and among the Italian-Canadian community. This concern arises because the amendments would permit Italian political parties to campaign in foreign countries for direct election to the Italian parliament.