

## **2012 Italy - Qatar 'Memorandum of Understanding'**

*"Memorandum of Understanding on the fight against crime between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the State of Qatar"*

### **Background**

Relations between Italy and Qatar are quite new. In fact, Giorgio Napolitano has been Italy's first-ever leader to visit Qatar in 2007. The field in which cooperation has been implemented the most is economy (export of Italian Goods and import of Qatari Hydrocarbons) followed by defense (Qatar is an important customer for Italy's defense industry). For this latter aspect, in 2010 the *"Agreement between the Government of Italian Republic and The Government of the State of Qatar on Defence co-operation"* was signed.

### **Procedure**

The agreement was concluded in simplified form in 2012 and then ratified in 2017.

### **Parties**

The Memorandum was signed by the Italian Minister of the Interior Annamaria Cancellieri and the Minister of the Interior of Qatar Abdullah Bin Khaled al-Thani.

### **Signature and Ratification**

The Memorandum was signed in Rome on the 16th April 2012. It was then ratified on the 17th February 2017 by the Italian President of the Republic, Sergio Mattarella.

### **Legal Basis**

Given that the relationship between the two countries are pretty new, the MoU refers to some UN Conventions and Resolutions both States have signed.

- The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (New York, 30 March 1961) as amended by its Additional Protocol (Geneva, 25 March 1972);
- The Convention on the fight against the illicit trafficking in Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 21 February 1971);
- The Convention on the fight against the Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Vienna, 20 December 1988);
- The "Global Action Plan" (New York, 23 February 1990) draw up under the aegis of the United Nations;
- Resolution 45/123 of the UN General Assembly of 14 December 1990 on International Cooperation in the Fight against Organized Crime;
- The UN Convention on the fight Against Transnational Crime (Palermo, 13 December 2000).

## **Aims**

Fighting against illicit trafficking in dangerous narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their derivatives, chemical substances and related drugs, terrorism, organized crime, all types of forgery and falsification, all types of smuggling, smuggling of firearms, ammunitions and explosives, money laundering, credit card crimes, computer and internet crimes, ports, airports and outlets crimes, illegal immigration.

Strengthening the cooperation and mutual assistance in the search for and arrest of fugitives and persons accused or prosecuted for the execution of their convictions issued by the courts for the abovementioned offences or other types of offences, in accordance with the internal procedures of each Party.

The two Parties also aim at organising meetings and visits between the staff of the security bodies of both countries, in order to strengthen the cooperation in the areas governed by the Memorandum and their contacts.

## **Content**

Dispositions to facilitate the sharing of information and mutual assistance related to the aforementioned crimes through the exchange of:

- experience in the areas of the use of crime-fighting technology and techniques and means of conducting judicial investigations,
- research, publications and results of scientific research conducted in the areas covered by the Memorandum of Understanding with a view to organise and prepare procedures in matters of mutual interest,
- means and expertise to assist each of the two Parties in the training of security and police personnel,
- assistance in the fields of scientific and technical police development, judicial investigations and related equipment, information and legislative instruments, criminal acts which occur within or outside the territory of the two Parties and which are connected to one of the two Parties,
- operational information of mutual interest on the relations and contacts between terrorists and other organised criminal groups present in each of the two countries.
- information on existing terrorist threats, illicit trafficking in dangerous narcotic and psychotropic substances, chemical substances and drugs related to organised crime, and on the organisational techniques and procedures adopted to fight against such crimes.

## **Final Disposition**

This MoU entered into force on the date of exchange of its ratification documents and shall remain into force for five years and automatically renewed for a similar period unless one of the two Parties desires its termination by informing the other Party in

writing of its desire six month before of the date of termination through the diplomatic channels.

### **Cases and secondary legislation (cf. Application)**

Not found

### **Critical Issues**

Some Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch reports have shown a low protection of migrants workers rights and several violations of human rights made by Qatar authorities in general.

It is not, though, directly related to Italy but then the questions that arise are: "Why is Italy signing an agreement with Qatar, which is a State well known for its violations? Why does the MoU also mention illegal migration and how is this subject ruled by this agreement?"