

cc. R.P.

*Interesting*  
*In. copy*

Reference ..... *L.H. 014/2*  
*18/2*  
*19 FEB '91*  
*Pr. P.*  
*18/2*

Mr Vereker ✓

*There will be interesting, esp. 3-6 but this subject of referenda are not a substitute for a law (see from the government.*

ITALIAN REFERENDA


1. The referenda due to take place in Italy are as follows:

- (1.) Abortion - put forward by the Radical Party and proposing the easing of restrictions on the termination of pregnancy within the first 90 days.
- (2.) Abortion - put forward by the Catholic Movement for Life and restricting abortion to cases where there is danger to mother or child.
- (3.) The abrogation of Articles 17 and 22 of the Penal Code thus banning life imprisonment. (Of the 10 original Radical referenda, this attracted the least votes.)
- (4.) The repeal of Cossiga's Decree 625 of 15 December 1979 which concerned terrorism. Amongst other things, the decree increases sentences for terrorist crimes, reduces sentences for "terroristi pentiti" and enables the police to hold suspects without access to lawyers for 72 hours.
- (5.) A ban on the carrying of firearms.
- (6.) A call for military trials to be abolished. The Party consider Military tribunals to be repression rather than justice and would like them transferred to the Civil Courts.

2. Apart from the above, 6 other referenda were rejected by the Constitutional Court on 4 February as follows:

- (1.) The repeal of 31 Articles of the Penal Code dealing with blasphemy, insulting behaviour, etc.
- (2.) A call for a nationwide ban on hunting. This was possibly the referendum with the most popular support but met with stiff resistance from Italy's vested interests/2,000,000 hunters.
- (3.) Relaxation of the laws regarding the acquisition and cultivation of "light" drugs - specifically Indian cannabis.
- (4.) A ban on the construction of nuclear power stations on Italian soil.
- (5.) The demilitarisation of the Guardia di Finanza - the Partito Radicale believes that demilitarisation would lead to democratisation and help curb corruption.
- (6.) Abortion - the second referendum proposal by the Catholic Movement for Life. It would have called for the tightest restrictions on abortion, whatever the purpose.

3. There is speculation that the reason why the proposed referendum calling for a ban on hunting was rejected is because a ban on the carrying of firearms would have the same effect in the long term.

  
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- (1.) The repeal of Article 17 and 18 of the Penal Code thus banning life imprisonment. (Of the 10 original radical referenda, this attracted the least votes.)
- (2.) The repeal of Article 17 and 18 of the Penal Code. The repeal of Article 17 and 18 of the Penal Code which concerned terrorism. Amongst other things, the decision increases sentences for terrorist crimes, reduces sentences for "terrorist practice" and enables the police to hold suspects without access to lawyers for 24 hours.
- (3.) A ban on the carrying of firearms.
- (4.) A call for military trials to be abolished. The party consider military tribunals to be repression rather than justice and would like them transferred to the civil courts.
- (5.) Apart from the above, 6 other referenda were rejected by the Constitutional Court on 4 February as follows:
  - (1.) The repeal of 27 Articles of the Penal Code dealing with blasphemy, insulting behaviour, etc.
  - (2.) A call for a nationwide ban on hunting. This was possibly the referendum with the most popular support but met with stiff resistance from Italy's vested interests, 2,000,000 hunters.
  - (3.) Relaxation of the laws regarding the production and cultivation of "light" drugs - specifically Italian cannabis.
  - (4.) A ban on the construction of nuclear power stations on Italian soil.
  - (5.) The demilitarisation of the Guardia di Finanza - the Partito radicale believe that demilitarisation would lead to demoralisation and help curb corruption.
  - (6.) Abortion - the second referendum proposed by the Catholic Movement for life. It would have called for the tightest restrictions on abortion, whatever the proposal.