



## Ministero degli Affari Esteri

### JOINT DECLARATION

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Within the framework of the bilateral relations between the Republic of Italy and the Sultanate of Oman, and under article 4 of the Agreement on Economic and Technological Cooperation signed in Rome on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1988, the meeting of the Italian-Omani Joint Committee was held in Rome, June 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

A Country Presentation was held in Milan on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The Italian side was headed by H.E. the Secretary of the State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the honourable Stefania Craxi, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, honourable Franco Frattini; the Omani side was headed by H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al BuSa'id, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Omani delegation was also accompanied in this visit by representatives of major Omani companies.

The head of the two delegations went through a thorough examination of the bilateral and regional political issues.

The two delegations emphasized the strong commitment by the Republic of Italy and the Sultanate of Oman to enhance the bilateral political and economic relations. The Sultanate of Oman is chairing the Gulf Cooperation Council for the year 2009 and the Republic of Italy is leading the G8. This occasion offered an unprecedented chance to take full advantage of new opportunities in order to foster the relations between the two parties and give relevance to the decisions agreed upon.

After addressing the meeting, the heads of the two delegations left, so as to offer the head of the Omani side the opportunity to meet Ministers and members of the Italian Government. Meanwhile, the senior officials of the two delegations resumed the meeting and went through the agenda as follows:

1. economic and commercial cooperation in commerce and industry;
2. tourism;
3. culture and cultural heritage;
4. renewable energy, environment and climate affairs;
5. energy and natural resources;
6. education and research;
7. post-graduate studies and training projects;
8. infrastructure and transports;
9. agriculture and fisheries;



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10. financial cooperation;
11. IT and vocational training.

The Italian and the Omani delegations agreed to implement direct flights between the two countries with the aim of strengthening the bilateral contacts. The two delegations promoted the creation of a Joint Business Council which should be first convened in Muscat to enhance bilateral economic relations. A business mission to Oman will also be soon organized.

A Memorandum of Understanding in the field of tourism, which will ensure technical cooperation between the competent Authorities has been taken into account.

In the field of cultural heritage, Italy will support the restoration of forts and castles in Oman.

A mission to Oman on cultural heritage management could represent a follow up of the present meeting.

A pro-active participation in Expo 2015, in Milan, by the Sultanate of Oman has been envisaged.

The two delegations agreed also to start talks on the visa exemption for diplomatic and service passports, confirming the excellent bilateral relations between Italy and Oman.

Another achievement of this meeting is the start up of negotiations on mutual recognition of driving licenses, which shall facilitate the activity of Italian and Omani citizens working in both countries.

Both sides agreed that any information related to the abovementioned issues will be exchanged through diplomatic channels.

The two parties agreed to hold the next meeting for political consultations and the Joint Committee in Oman next year in Mascat.

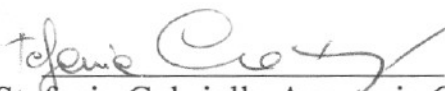
Agreed minutes will follow.



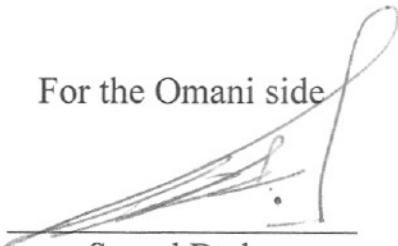
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Done in Rome on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in two originals in English language.

For the Italian side

  
Stefania Gabriella Anastasia Craxi  
Secretary of the State  
For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

For the Omani side

  
Sayyd Badr  
Secretary General  
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs