<u>Press Releases: Italian Republic</u> <u>National Day</u>

Press Statement Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC June 2, 2017

On behalf of the United States of America, I offer congratulations and best wishes to the people of Italy as you celebrate Republic Day on June 2nd.

The United States and Italy are strong partners, Allies, and friends. Throughout America's history, Italian-Americans have enriched our communities by sharing their cultural heritage. This deep and enduring friendship, founded on mutual respect, trust, and affection is not one we take for granted. Rather, it is one we rekindle and strengthen every time we come together to address challenges and attain common goals promoting a collective defense. Italy is a valued NATO Ally and European Union partner and together we have made progress on common security goals and shared interests.

It is in this spirit of friendship that the United States looks forward to continued cooperation with our Italian partners and to building upon our existing collaboration.

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