IV. DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS

Law No. 35 of 8 March 2002 (GU No. 64 of 16 March 2002)

Enactment as a law of Decree-Law No. 3 of 16 January 2002 concerning urgent measures for the strengthening of Italian diplomatic seats and consular offices in Argentina.

Due to the extraordinary needs arising from the political and economic situation in Argentina, local Italian diplomatic seats and consular offices can employ a maximum of thirty people for six months through temporary arrangements signed in conformity with Art. 153(1) of DPR No. 18 of 5 January 1967, provided that these arrangements are authorised by the central administration. If the extraordinary needs in question continue, such arrangements can be renewed for two subsequent periods of six months, notwithstanding Arts. 152(1), 153(2) and 153(3) of DPR No. 18/1967, as subsequently amended.

As for the implementation of Law No. 35/2002, a maximum of EURO 907,195,23 for 2002 and of EURO 725,756,18 for 2003 can be paid. To this end, liquid assets of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are partly to be employed.

VII. ENVIRONMENT

DL No. 7 of 7 February 2002 (GU No. 34 of 9 February 2002) converted into Law No. 55 of 9 April 2002.(GU No. 84 of 10 April 2002)

The present Decree has been issued by the Government in order to cope with the risk of “black-out” in the Italian territory, due to the fact that the actual electricity needs of the whole country are barely covered by the current energy generation and import from abroad.

For this reason, the Decree introduces a new “fast-track” administrative procedure for the approval of projects for the construction of new and the renovation of existing power plants exceeding 300 megawatts. The new administrative procedure is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Productive Activities (formerly, the Ministry of Industry), which can issue a single authorisation replacing and including all the authorisations, permits and go-aheads normally required for the construction of such
power plants. The single authorisation can also overturn pre-existing land planning instruments. The EIA procedure, if required, has been integrated into the general administrative procedure for the issuing of the authorisation to build the power plants under consideration. As regards, in particular, the compliance with the environmental requirements prescribed by the applicable legislation, the single authorisation issued by the Ministry of Productive Activities will also include the integrated environmental authorisation prescribed by the IPPC Directive.

*DL No. 122 of 20 June 2002 (GU No. 144 of 21 June 2002) converted into Law No. 185 of 1 August 2002 (GU No. 193 of 19 August 2002)*

*D.Lgs. No. 301 of 27 December 2002 (GU No. 16 of 21 January 2003)*

The former Decree shifts to 30 June 2003 the date of the entry into force of DPR 380/01, containing the Consolidated Text on building requirements (*Testo Unico delle disposizioni legislative e regolamentari in materia di edilizia*) and of DPR 327/01, containing the Consolidated Text on expropriation for purposes of public utility (*Testo Unico delle disposizioni legislative e regolamentari in materia di espropriazione per pubblica utilità*).

The latter Decree contains some modifications and amendments to DPR 380/01, containing the Consolidated Text on building requirements (*Testo Unico delle disposizioni legislative e regolamentari in materia di edilizia*), awaiting its entry into force.

*Law. No.137 of 6 July 2002 (GU No. 158 of 8 July 2003)*

This Law contains a delegation of powers to the Government for the enactment of a new consolidated text which should re-organise and better codify the existing legislation on cultural and environmental goods.

The present Law also includes principles and criteria for the exercise of such delegation of powers. It should be noted here that the legislation on this matter has been recently revised by the previous Government, which adopted just a few years ago D.Lgs. 790/99, the present Consolidated Text on Cultural and Environmental Goods.

*DL No. 138 of 8 July 2002 (GU No. 158 of 8 July 2002) converted into Law No. 178 of 8 August 2002 (GU No. 187 of 10 August 2002)*

The present Law is worth recalling since it contains the long-debated "authentic interpretation" of the notion of "waste", which is contained in the Italian framework law on waste management, namely D.Lgs. 22/97.

The problem with such an "authentic interpretation" lies in the fact that the notion of waste in Italian derives directly from European Community law and the