

QATAR - ITALY

MIDDLE EAST
Strategic Perspectives

TIMELINE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS SINCE THE ACCESSION TO POWER
OF EMIR TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL THANI IN JUNE 2013

DECEMBER 2017

Business deals

Sept. 27

Qatar Airways acquires a 49% stake in **AQA Holding**, the parent company of Meridiana (Italy's second largest carrier).

Aug. 2

Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani announces in a press conference with Italian counterpart **Angelino Alfano** the conclusion of a **€5 billion** deal to acquire 7 navy vessels to be built by Fincantieri starting 2018. The deal includes support services for 15 years after delivery. Leonardo will equip the ships with electronics.



Jan. 29

Cassa Depositi e Prestiti signs a MoU with **QIA** for developing the Italian tourism sector and investing **€100 million** in CDP's growth fund.

Trade volume: \$2,394 billion
Italian exports to Qatar: \$1,290 billion
(Top exports: Machinery, furniture)
Qatari exports to Italy: \$1,104 billion
(Top export: Petroleum gas)
Source: World Bank; OEC



2016

July. 09

Salini Impregilo, in consortium with Bin Omran, signs a **€300 million** contract with the **Public Works Authority of Ashghal** for the realization of the residential area of Shamal.

July. 08

The construction and public works group **Salini Impregilo** signs a **€770 million** contract with **Aspire Zone** for the construction of the Al-Bayt stadium in Al-Khor, one of venues of the 2022 Fifa World Cup.

Feb. 27

QIA acquires 100% interest in Hines' Porta Nuova development in Milan, one of Europe's most prestigious districts.

Trade volume: \$3,047 billion

Italian exports to Qatar: \$1,451 billion
(Top exports: Machinery, furniture, cars)
Qatari exports to Italy: \$1,596 billion
(Top export: Petroleum gas)
Source: World Bank; OEC.



2015

Political cooperation

Nov. 30 - Dec. 2

Deputy PM and Foreign Minister **Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani** led the Qatari delegation at the Mediterranean Dialogues conference in Rome where he also met with his Italian counterpart **Angelino Alfano**.

Oct. 31 - Nov. 1

PM **Paolo Gentiloni** begins official visit to Doha. The PM held meetings with **Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** and **PM Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani**.

Aug. 10

Qatar Fund for Development signs a MoU with the Italian government to donate **€5.6 million** to rebuild areas damaged by the 2016 earthquake. The donation includes the construction of a new school in Macerata.

Apr. 27

Ambassador Pasquale Salzano presents his credentials to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi. Previously, Salzano served as Executive VP for Government Affairs at **Eni**.

Jan. 27 - 30

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani makes his first official visit to Italy, where he held meetings with President **Sergio Mattarella** and PM **Matteo Renzi**. The Emir also held a series of meetings with the heads of Italian companies (Eni, Finmeccanica, Fincantieri, Anas and Cassa Depositi e Prestiti).



May 28

Qatar Foundation Endowment (QFE) and

Luigi Maria Monti Foundation

announce

plans to open Mater Olbia, a specialized hospital and medical research centre in Olbia (Sardinia). Total investment: **€1 billion**.

May 01 - Oct. 31

The state of Qatar participates in the **Milan Expo** under the theme "Seeding Sustainability Innovative Solutions for Food Security". Participation provided an increased visibility for Qatar in Italy.

Nov. 14

IQ Made in Italy, a joint venture between **Qatar Holding and Fondo Strategico Itiliano** acquired a 28.7% stake worth **€165 million** in Inalca, a subsidiary of Italian food producer and caterer Cremonini.



Trade volume: \$3,388 billion

Italian exports to Qatar: \$1,492 billion

(Top exports: Machinery, cars, aviation, furniture)

Qatari exports to Italy: \$1,896 billion

(Top export: Petroleum gas)

Source: World Bank ; OEC

2014

Feb. 03 - 04

Italian PM **Enrico Letta** visits Qatar to discuss economic relations and encourage

Qatari investments in Italy, and holds meetings with the Emir **Sheikh Tamim bin Khalifa al Thani**.

It is the **first official**

visit by a European leader following Sheikh Tamim's accession to the throne.



Trade volume: \$4,181 billion

Italian exports to Qatar: \$1,539 billion

(Top exports: Machinery, cars, aviation, furniture)

Qatari exports to Italy: \$2,642 billion

(Top export: Petroleum gas)

Source: World Bank; OEC.

2013

Sept. 24

Italian Undersecretary of State for Defense, **Roberta Pinotti** meets with Qatari Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General **Ghanim bin Shaheen Al Ghanim**.

Aug. 22

Italian Foreign Minister **Emma Bonino** receives Qatar's Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Attiya** in Rome.

Jun. 25

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani takes

over as Emir after the abdication of his father Hamid bin Khalifa Al Thani.