Non-proliferation as a component of Italian foreign policy

Last decades Italy's foreign policy is characterized by a significant increase of its activity in the international arena. Italy pays a great attention to the participation in the activities of leading international institutions and initiatives in different spheres; through this the international image of the country is formed.

Italy is part of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) since 1975 as a non-nuclear weapons state. Nevertheless Italy is the country without its own nuclear power plants, this country pays great attention to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation as an important component of its current foreign policy. Italy supports the policy of multilateralism and international cooperation in the field of disarmament through its activity in the United Nations, the European Union, NATO and the G7, as well as in the context of major international review conventions.

Such kind of policy is regarded by Italian political authorities as an instrument in achieving some of related international objectives (for example, international prestige and status, participation in the ‘club of great powers’, and strengthening Italy's relationship with their strategic allies).

This component of Italian foreign policy defines two basic pillars of foreign policy of the Italian Republic: cooperation with the United States in the framework of NATO and its participation in the process of European integration.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obviously is one of the basics of the modern world order. The world political system in 2015-2016 is in the state of global political crisis and the crisis in Ukraine, the conflict in Syria, the rise of the Islamic state etc. – all these events are separate elements of the global political crisis. The essence of this crisis is a confrontation between Western countries and Russia. The most important thing is that this crisis affects relations between the two greatest nuclear powers of the world - the United States and Russia - and between Russia and Europe. It creates very dangerous situation. Italy in this case can become as a mediator between Russia and other Western countries, because Italy has a unique position in current international situation: Italy has a strategic partnership as with Russia, as with the USA and Italy is a member of the NPT.