

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy

Republic of San Marino

Michele Chiaruzzi – Edoardo Alberto Rossi

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Historical Background

As a buffer state between the Houses of Montefeltro and Malatesta, it overcame centuries of Italian wars and the Papal States expansion (1291-1631). Thanks to its refusal of Napoleon Bonaparte's offer to extend the territory (1797), San Marino maintained its independence even after the Congress of Vienna (1815). During the unification of Italy (1861) Giuseppe Garibaldi praised the asylum he received in San Marino, where he escaped the Austrian Empire's army. After the unification of Italian peninsula, San Marino became an enclave of Italy. This geographical condition, together with its small territorial size and population, means that **bilateral relations with Italy are the most important factor for San Marino practical existence in current era. In proper terms, this is a condition of dependence.**

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Priorities / focus of Foreign Policy

Main general aspects:

Diplomacy

Neutrality

Bilateral relations based on contingencies and neighbourhood

Main challenges:

- Maintain the diplomatic balance in international relations.
- Maintain friendly relations with Italy
- Fight against organized crime infiltrations.
- Financial threats: maintain social security and welfare top level.
- Conclude an Association Agreement with the European Union

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Institutions/Agencies

Ministry of Foreign and Political Affairs is responsible for implementing San Marino's foreign policy:

- Establishment of programmes according to the international policy objectives outlined by the Government
- Represents the State in its political, economic, social and cultural relations with foreign countries.
- Promotion of San Marino's interests abroad,
- Conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements and conventions (i.e. ongoing negotiation with EU)
- Participation in the activities of International Organisations of which San Marino is a member State.

The Ministry performs its tasks through its **diplomatic and consular network** all over the world:

- San Marino Embassies accredited to other countries,
- Permanent Missions and Representations to International Organisations,
- Diplomatic Delegations and Consular Offices.

Other actors in foreign policy involved in various capacity:

- Commission for Foreign Affairs, Emigration and Immigration, Security, Public Order and Information of the Great and General Council (RSM Parliament)
- University of the Republic of San Marino

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Bilateral Relations

RSM is surrounded by Italy (and by European Union) :

Historically close bilateral relations with Italy (since 1862 concluded more than 150 agreements)

Main Bilateral Agreements with Italy (full list <http://www.esteri.sm/on-line/en/home/foreign-affairs/international-treaties/bilateral-conventions/bilateral-conventions---bilateral-agreements-with-italy.html>)

- Convention of **friendship** and good neighbourhood (1939)
- Agreement on the **mutual recognition of university qualifications** issued in the Republic of San Marino and in the Italian Republic with a view to carrying on the studies (2011)
- Various Conventions concerning **financial and fiscal matters** (2002-2009-2012...)
- Various Conventions concerning Police Forces, police cooperation, fight against transnational organised crime, **prevention and repression of crime**, exchange of information (2011-2012-2013-2014 ...)
- Other fields of bilateral agreements with Italy: protection of **environment, health safety, transports and communications, food, cultural and scientific** cooperation, etc..

Bilateral Agreements with EU (official relations since 1983):

- **1991: EEC - RSM Agreement on Cooperation and Customs Union** (entered into force on 1 April 2002)
- **2012: EU-RSM Monetary Agreement** (RSM is entitled to use € as its official currency).
- **2004: EU-RSM Agreement on taxation of savings income**

Bilateral Agreements with other States (mainly establishing **diplomatic relations**): full list <http://www.esteri.sm/on-line/en/home/foreign-affairs/international-treaties/bilateral-conventions/bilateral-conventions---bilateral-agreements-with-other-states.html>

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Multilateral Relations

•Council of Europe (CoE)

•Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

•International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

•International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

•International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

•International Criminal Court (ICC)

•International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL)

•International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)

•International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IISA)

•International Labour Organisation (ILO)

•International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

•International Monetary Fund (IMF)

•International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

•Interparliamentary Union (IU)

•Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

•Office of UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

•Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

•Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

•United Nations (UN)

•UN Agency for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

•UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

•UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

•UN Development Programme (UNDP)

•UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

•UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

•UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

•UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

•UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

•UN Office on Drugs Control and Crime Prevention (UNODC)

•UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

•UN Programme on AIDS/HIV (UNAIDS)

•World Bank (IBRD)

•World Food Programme (WFP)

•World Health Organization (WHO)

•World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

•World Tourism Organisation

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy –Diplomatic Types

Obviously, San Marino uses various types of diplomacy. However, the political potential provided by international law and multilateralism is the most important one.

Cultural diplomacy absorbs relevant resources, attracting potential foreign direct investors.

In order to use the political potential offered by international law and multilateralism, size is not fundamental. International law and multilateralism are based on legal equality instead of unequal power.

Size is an asset to San Marino's cultural diplomacy, because induces a sympathetic perception as well as specific attention.

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Societal Beliefs

There are no researches on what the public opinion believes about foreign policy. Public opinion seems to unanimously support the conceptual foundation of neutrality and international dialogue as pillars of foreign affairs. Apart from these generalities, foreign policy seems to be relegated to a secondary level in ordinary public perception. In general terms, public opinion has not relevant influence on the definition of foreign affairs which are too complex to be interiorized. The conduct of foreign policy is vertical, defined by the apparatus of government and diplomatic service.

Due to an international treaty, the national television (SM RTV) has a monopoly on TV information. Newspapers publish almost exclusively local news (i.e. San Marino and Italy). There are no media outlets devoted to foreign policy issues, other than those run by national institutional. The university counterbalance this de facto monopoly, having created a research centre for international relations which support public opinions engagement in foreign affairs.

Small States International Relations and Diplomacy -Challenges

1. Find a creative way to be integrated in the European Union
2. Re-establish a successful coordination with Italy
3. Resist negative pressure from non Europeans powers, and transform it in positive terms.
4. Find external economic support
5. Restructuring of the diplomatic service
6. Maintaining internal unity for a common vision of foreign affairs