



CORTE DEI CONTI

6TH GALF Meeting
Shanghai, April 8 - 10, 2019

The Italian Experience in the Environmental Sector

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CORTE DEI CONTI





THE ROLE OF SAIs IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES' AUDITING

Environmental policies and proceedings need the use of public resources and SAIs play an important role. They are required to audit the sound management of these resources and intercept unlawful conducts.

The Italian system of control is twofold:

The Corte dei conti has **audit and judicial functions**.



1. THE AUDIT OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Each year the *Corte dei conti* presents to the Italian Parliament its **Annual Report** on the results of its audit activities.

This report includes the assessment on the management of public resources allocated to the **Ministry of Environment, Territory and Sea Protection** as responsible of the environment sector.



1. THE AUDIT OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Functions of the Italian Ministry of Environment and the Corte dei conti reports':

- (a) protecting air quality and promoting the use of clean energy
- (b) protecting the quality and the quantity of the water system and the optimization of water resources in the different relevant sectors
- (c) preventing hydrogeological risks
- (d) protecting and preserving biodiversity to maintain the environment quality through the conservation and the management of natural resources, the management of waste and the restoration of polluted sites.



1. THE AUDIT OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Other Functions:

The Ministry carries out also functions concerning the prevention and restoration of environmental damage, the promotion of sustainable development policies and the protection of territory soil.

It has also the supervision on the functions in the environmental sector attributed to different bodies.



1. THE AUDIT OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT - RESULTS 1/3

1. The Ministry has allocated **90.5% of the resources** to the Mission “Sustainable development and the protection of the territory and environment” which includes also the two following programs:

- (i) “Sustainable development, international activity and environment damage;”
- (ii) “Management of water resources, territory protection and decontamination.”



1. THE AUDIT OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT - RESULTS 2/3

2. The Ministry has authorized the planning activity of 149 interventions and the implementation activity of 127 interventions for hydrogeological upheaval, to be consistently monitored in order to verify the progress of the work. It should be considered that over two thirds of our peninsula are prone to hydrogeological instability, with risk of landslides and floods and more than 6,000 municipalities are involved.

3. The Ministry has allocated **the remaining 9.5 %** of the resources to the following programs: (iii) protection and conservation of flora and fauna life, protection of biodiversity and marine ecosystem, (iv) waste management and pollution prevention, (v) programs and interventions concerning climate changes and renewable energies.



1. THE AUDIT OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT - RESULTS 3/3

- ❑ There has been a significant increase of the resources allocated for the environment sector by the Government.
- ❑ Most of the resources have been allocated for sustainable development in relation to various areas of critical importance such as natural resources, green climate and pollution.
- ❑ The sustainable development must be a lifestyle covering three dimensions of well-being: economic, social and environmental.
- ❑ The resources have been adequately allocated in order to develop the national environmental policy.



WHAT IS MORE

2. THE AUDITS OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI ON DISASTERS AND CATASTROPHES

The *Corte dei conti*, with its audit and jurisdictional functions, plays also a fundamental role in the natural disasters and catastrophes scenario. The Italian territory has a high exposure to natural risks: earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, fires.

❑ Several Reports on earthquakes adopted by CENTRAL AND REGIONAL Chambers.



WHAT IS MORE

3. THE REPORTS OF THE CENTRAL AUDIT CHAMBER ON THE STATE ADMINISTRATIONS MANAGEMENT

This Audit Chamber has presented an interesting report on the interventions for the reduction of **hydrogeological risk** which is extensively widespread in Italy and represents a major problem.

This report has focused three main objectives and some remarks.

□ GOALS AND REMARKS

4. THE JUDICIAL FUNCTION OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR

The Public Prosecutors of the *Corte dei conti* can bring liabilities' action in case of misuse of public funds and of any loss of public resources. They can lodge an action in case of administrative and accounting liability of functionaries, public agents or private persons or undertakings managing public "resources in the public general interest for any damage they caused to the State and the European Union or to any public entity by fraud or gross negligence.

- The harm could also take into account non-material damages, such as **damages to the environment.**
- The **environmental damage** consists in the "**significant and measurable deterioration, direct or indirect, of a natural resource or of the usefulness ensured by this latter.**"



4. THE JUDICIAL FUNCTION OF THE CORTE DEI CONTI IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR

Therefore, the *Corte dei conti* has the jurisdiction on remedying of environmental damage, when the damage is caused by subjects under its jurisdiction, even if the *notitia damni* comes from different sources (for instance, Police, Forest Department, etc.).

The Public Prosecutor of the *Corte dei conti* brings the environmental damage action.

It is a very significant POWER, suitable to increase the environment protection and allow the Public Prosecutor's action in a greater number of cases based on press reports or qualified and circumstantial complaints from subjects interested in the protection of particular goods.



5. ENVIRONMENT AND SDGs IN ITALY

Promoting the high quality of human life through the protection and improvement of the environment conditions and the rational management of natural resources is one of the objectives of the SDGs of the 2030 UN Agenda.

Italy is increasingly including the SDGs in its economic, social and environmental planning.

- ❑ The Italian National Strategy for Sustainable Development (“NSSD”);
- ❑ The Indicators of Equitable and Sustainable Well-Being.



5. AUDIT, ENVIRONMENT AND SDGs IN ITALY

The General Audit Plan of the Corte dei conti for 2019 and the public administrations compliance with the sustainable development goals of the 2030 UN Agenda.

□ The fields of the Corte dei conti's audits in the environmental sector:

sustainable agriculture, sustainable models of production and consumption, fight against climate change, conditions of cities and terrestrial ecosystems, water and sanitation facilities, energy system, condition of the sea.

□ Main goal.



I warmly thank you for your attention!

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