

**JOINT STATEMENT BY SECRETARY SPENCER ABRAHAM OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND MINISTER ANTONIO MARZANO OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY ON**

COOPERATION IN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

**ROME, ITALY
AUGUST 15, 2003**

We affirm our commitment, on behalf of the United States of America and the Republic of Italy, to collaborate both bilaterally and multilaterally on accelerating the development of the hydrogen economy as part of our broadening cooperation on clean energy technologies. We aim to work together to enhance the security of energy supply, increase diversity sources, and improve local and global environmental quality.

In this context we will work together to bring to bear the expertise of the public and private sector to solve the complex challenges surrounding the hydrogen economy; establish sound, universally compatible codes, standards and regulations for hydrogen fuel utilization; and provide a strong and broad foundation for the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy and other partnerships in support of the hydrogen economy. The U.S.-Italy workshop on fuel cell technologies planned in Sacramento, California in September 2003 is an important step in this effort.

We also affirm our commitment to the success of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF). The next CSLF meeting will be hosted by Minister Marzano and will be held in Rome during the week of January 19-23, 2004.

Italy is participating with the United States in providing leadership for a number of initiatives within the International Energy Agency (IEA). A current key project is Italy's work with the U.S. in sponsoring the IEA Zero Emissions Technologies Asia Pacific Conference. Zero Emissions Technologies for Fossil Fuels and their potential, as part of the portfolio of cleaner energy options will be the focus of the event, which will be held in Australia during February 18-19, 2004.

We support the ongoing discussions between the Department of Energy and the Ministry of Productive Activities to foster continued bilateral collaboration in a wide range of areas of energy related research and technology development. These areas include renewable energy, ceramic membranes; public relations and education; carbon products, management and sequestration; advanced clean coal technology; economic data and modeling; policy strategies for use of coal; industry team visits; industrial processes systems; fuel cells for automotive applications and stationary power production; and coal and bio-mass.

The U.S. Department of Energy is planning to send a delegation to Rome this Fall to discuss arrangements for the CSLF and to develop specific plans for bilateral activities.