



## WARDEN MESSAGE

### **Heightened Passport Controls at Italian Borders in Preparation for Group of Eight (G8) Summit in July**

The Italian Minister of Interior, Roberto Maroni, has announced that Italy will temporarily suspend the Schengen agreement from June 28 through July 15, 2009, as a security measure for the upcoming G-8 Summit to be held in Italy from July 8-10. American citizens planning travel between Italy and Schengen Area countries during this time are encouraged to verify that their U.S. passport is valid for travel (not expired), and should carry their passport when they travel.

The Schengen agreement allows for movement across borders of the participating countries, without the need to present a passport. Temporary suspension of the agreement means that from June 28 through July 15 a passport will be required for travel between Italy and Schengen Area countries. The participating countries include: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website, [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov), where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages American citizens to review to "A Safe Trip Abroad," found at [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety\\_1747.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html), which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

All Americans in Switzerland are urged to register either online at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) or by phone or in person directly with the U.S. Embassy in Bern. Registering gives U.S. citizens access to updated information on travel and security within Switzerland and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact citizens in case of emergency.

**U.S. Embassy in Bern** is located at Sulgeneckstrasse 19, 3007 Bern. The telephone number is 031 357 7011. Our website is: <http://bern.usembassy.gov>

#### **U.S. Consular Agencies in Switzerland are located in:**

ZURICH: Dufourstrasse 101, 8007 Zurich , telephone number 043 499 2960

GENEVA : Rue Versonnex 7, 1207 Geneva ; telephone number: 022 840 5160