

PROMOTED BY



ISTITUTO
ZOOPROFILATTICO
SPERIMENTALE
DELLA SICILIA
"A. MIRRI"



Human
Biosafety
Health
FOUNDATION™



Ordine dei Medici
Chirurghi ed Odontoiatri
della Provincia di Palermo

SIGNATORIES



Città di Palermo



AEROPORTO
DI PALERMO



Università
degli Studi
di Palermo



Civico Di Cristina Benfratelli
Ambasceria Nazionale per la Sicurezza

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE PALERMO DECLARATION

A **One Health** approach to
Mediterranean Air Borders Biosafety

16 OCTOBER 2026

Villa Malfitano Whitaker
Palermo, Italy



SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE

Promoted by the Human **Biosafety Health Foundation ETS**, in collaboration with the **Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia “A. Mirri”** and the **Order of Physicians and Dentists of the Province of Palermo**, the International Conference **“THE PALERMO DECLARATION – A One Health Approach to Mediterranean Air Border Biosafety”** stems from the commitment to foster convergence among Institutions, the scientific community and operational stakeholders involved in protecting public health and safeguarding critical infrastructure.

The Mediterranean, a strategic crossroads connecting Europe, Africa and the Middle East, is increasingly affected by human mobility, climate change, zoonotic threats and emerging biological hazards, creating an ever more complex health and security environment. The **One Health** paradigm, grounded in the interdependence of human, animal and environmental health, provides the framework for moving beyond pathogen-specific approaches and developing cross-cutting governance capable of anticipating, identifying and managing biological emergencies regardless of their nature or origin.

The initiative builds upon a process of scientific and institutional networking developed by the Foundation’s **Scientific Committee**, which has fostered dialogue among health and aviation authorities, civil and military institutions, human and veterinary health services, emergency medical systems, universities, research organisations and airport management stakeholders.



Within this framework, the expertise of the Italian **Air Force Medical Service** in planning, biocontainment and specialised aeromedical transport, together with **Medical Intelligence (MEDINT)** and **Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)** capabilities, contributes to strengthening situational awareness and supporting informed decision-making.

From this convergence emerges the **PALERMO DECLARATION**, conceived as a strategic framework for air border biosafety based on cross-cutting preparedness, interoperability and response capability. **Palermo Airport** is identified as the first pilot hub in which to develop and progressively validate an integrated **Air Border Biosafety System**, translating the One Health paradigm into operational capabilities and inter-institutional cooperation.

Palermo thus aims to serve as a hub for scientific and institutional convergence and as a platform for dialogue, from which a **measurable, interoperable and replicable model** can be developed and progressively transferred to other airports across the Mediterranean region.

09.00 **INSTITUTIONAL OPENING REMARKS**

Elio COSTANZA

Vice President, Human Biosafety Health Foundation (HBH)

Renato SCHIFANI

President of the Sicilian Region

Ruggero RAZZA

Member of the European Parliament – Chair of the Delegation for Relations with the Maghreb Countries and the Arab Maghreb Union (DMAG) – Member of the Committee on Public Health (SANT)

Nino MINARDO

Chair of the Standing Committee on Defence – Italian Chamber of Deputies

Francesco ZAFFINI

Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Health, Public and Private Employment and Social Security – Senate of the Italian Republic

Giovanni LEONARDI

Head of the Department of Human Health, Animal Health and Ecosystem (One Health), and International Relations – Italian Ministry of Health

Alexander D'ORSOGNA

Director General – Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC)

Capo Pietro PERELLI

Chief of the Italian Air Force Medical Service – Italian Air Force

Marcello CARUSO

Regional Minister for Health – Sicilian Regional Government

Nico TORRISI

Vice President of Assaeroporti – Italian Airports Association, Chief Executive Officer of SAC S.p.A. – Management Company of Catania and Comiso Airports

Mohamed BEKKAT-BERKANI

President, Algerian National Council of Medical Ethics – President, National Order of Physicians of Algeria

Alberto FIRENZE

Director General – Palermo Local Health Authority (ASP Palermo)

Moderator:

Giovanna CIRINO

Journalist

PANEL

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE:

From Early Warning to Preparedness

- 10.30 **Medical Intelligence, Health Literacy and National Security**
Professor Francesco SIDOTI
Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Criminology – University of L'Aquila
- 10.50 **One Health, Biocrime and the National Security Framework for Biological Risk PSN**
Doctor Paolo ZUCCA
Focal Point, Biocrime Centre – Central Health Directorate, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region
- 11.10 **Biological Emergency Management: Biocontainment MEDEVAC and STRATEVAC in the Era of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and Medical Intelligence (MEDINT)**
Brigadier General Marco LASTILLA
Director, Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Milan – Italian Air Force
- 11.30 **Ebola, Marburg and Other Filoviruses: Security Implications from Outbreaks in Endemic Areas to Imported Cases**
Professor Luca ZINZULA
ShanghaiTech University – Former Researcher at the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried, Munich
- 11.50 **From Medical Intelligence to CBRN-MED Response: The Villafranca Verona Entry Point Model**
Colonel Paolo MARCATILI
Head of the Medical Facility, 3rd Wing – Italian Air Force, CBRN-MED

Moderators:

Doctor Francesco BONGIORNO

President – Human Biosafety Health Foundation (HBH)

Professor Claudia COLOMBA

Full Professor of Infectious Diseases, University of Palermo – Director, Paediatric Infectious Diseases Unit, “Giovanni Di Cristina” Hospital, ARNAS Cívico Di Cristina Benfratelli, Palermo

12.10 **SIGNING OF THE PALERMO DECLARATION**

Roberto LAGALLA

Mayor of Palermo – City of Palermo

Massimo MIDIRI

Rector – University of Palermo

Gianfranco BATTISTI

*Chief Executive Officer – GESAP S.p.A., Operator of Palermo
“Falcone Borsellino” International Airport*

Walter MESSINA

Director General – ARNAS Civico Di Cristina Benfratelli, Palermo

Francesca DI GAUDIO

Director General – Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia “A. Mirri”

Salvatore AMATO

*President – Order of Physicians, Surgeons and Dentists
of the Province of Palermo*

Francesco BONGIORNO

President – Human Biosafety Health Foundation (HBH)

Moderators:

Alessandro D’ACQUISTO

Secretary General – Human Biosafety Health Foundation (HBH)

Giovanna CIRINO

Journalist

13.30 **LUNCH BREAK** 🍴

SESSION I

BIOLOGICAL GOVERNANCE AND PREPAREDNESS:

Coordination, Biocontainment and Operational Response

- 14.30 **Beyond One Health: Aerospace Medicine and Precision Medicine for a New Approach to Biological Preparedness**
Major Giovanni MARFIA
Director, Centre for Aerospace Medicine and Advanced Therapies (CeMATA) – Italian Air Force; Associate Professor, University of Milan
- 14.45 **Airport Health Security from a One Health Perspective: Governance, Preparedness, Coordination and Operational Continuity**
Doctor Antonello FURIA
Head of the Aeronautical Medicine Office – WHO-ICAO CAPSCA Focal Point, Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC)
- 15.00 **Medical Planning in Complex Biological Emergencies: Biocontainment, Coordination and Operational Response**
Lieutenant Colonel Paolo FAZIO
Medical Officer – Italian Air Force, 41st Wing, Sigonella
- 15.15 **From Alert to Response: Health Governance and USMAF-SASN Coordination in the Airport Environment**
Doctor Claudio PULVIRENTI,
Director, USMAF-SASN Calabria and Sicily – Italian Ministry of Health
- 15.30 **CBRN Medical Response within the Airport Environment: Training, Shared Procedures and Interoperability among Emergency Response Stakeholders**
Doctor Fabio GENCO
Director, SUES 118 Palermo-Trapani Emergency Medical Operations Centre – ARNAS Civico, Palermo

15.45 **Civil Defence, Biosafety and Preparedness:
The Experience of ADAS Aerospace Defense & Security
in the United Arab Emirates**

Laila BADAoui

*Chief Executive Officer, ADAS Aerospace Defense & Security LLC
United Arab Emirates*

Moderators:

Doctor Ulrico ANGELONI

*Senior Expert in Public Health, Health Emergencies
and Biocontainment – Member of the Scientific Committee,
Human Biosafety Health Foundation (HBH)*

Doctor Chiara IARIA

*Director, Infectious and Tropical Diseases Unit
ARNAS Civico Di Cristina Benfratelli, Palermo*

SESSION II

ONE HEALTH – SURVEILLANCE AND EARLY WARNING:

Emerging Biological Threats at the Human–Animal–Molecular Interface

16.00 **IZS Sicily/FAO/WOAH Collaboration and the Establishment of
STOR-REMESA: A One Health Hub for Cooperation and
Preparedness across Mediterranean Countries**

Doctor Roberto BALBO

*Veterinary Medical Director
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Sicilia “A. Mirri”*

16.15 **Entomological Surveillance as an Early Warning Tool
for Emerging Biological Threats**

Doctor Fabrizio VITALE

*Director, Molecular Biology Area – Head, National Reference Centre for
Leishmaniasis; OIE Reference Laboratory; Acting Head, Entomology and
Environmental Vector Control Laboratory – Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale
della Sicilia “A. Mirri”*

16.30 **Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases
Professor Antonio CASCIO**

*Full Professor of Infectious Diseases – Rector’s Delegate for One Health Policies,
University of Palermo*

16.45 **Early Recognition of High-Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCIDs): Integrating Hospital Preparedness, Structured Triage and a Syndromic Approach**

Doctor Laura SCORZOLINI

Medical Officer and Infectious Diseases Specialist – High-Intensity Care and Highly Contagious Infectious Diseases Unit (MIAIC), National Institute for Infectious Diseases “Lazzaro Spallanzani” IRCCS, Rome

17.00 **Emerging Zoonoses and One Health: The Role of Veterinary Prevention in Surveillance and Early Warning**

Doctor Francesco FRANCAVIGLIA

*Director, Department of Veterinary Prevention
Palermo Provincial Health Authority*

Moderators:

Doctor Paolo ZUCCA

*Focal Point, Biocrime Centre – Central Health Directorate,
Friuli Venezia Giulia Region*

Doctor Claudia IMBURGIA

*Medical Officer, Infectious Diseases Unit – ARNAS Civico Di Cristina Benfratelli,
Palermo*

17.15 **CONCLUDING REMARKS AND CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE**

Scientific Coordination:

Doctor Francesco BONGIORNO

President – Human Biosafety Health Foundation (HBH)

Scientific Committee Foundation HBH

Doctor Paolo ZUCCA

*Focal Point, Biocrime Centre – Central Health Directorate,
Friuli Venezia Giulia Region*

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE PALERMO DECLARATION

A **One Health** approach to
Mediterranean Air Borders Biosafety



WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF



Regione Siciliana
ASSESSORATO DELLA SALUTE



MAIN SPONSOR



WITH THE SUPPORT OF



CONFERENCE VENUE



FONDAZIONE
GIUSEPPE WHITAKER
VILLA MALFITANO WHITAKER
ISOLA E MUSEO DI MOZIA

**ORGANIZING
SECRETARIAT
AND CME PROVIDER**

LAMB

Via Resuttana, 360 - 90146 Palermo
091 8778682 - info@accademiamedica.eu
www.accademiamedica.eu