The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

Founded in 1603, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei is the oldest academy in the world which included, among many other prestigious names, Galileo Galilei. The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei is within the sphere of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and is considered the highest Italian cultural institution. The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei is a scientific consultant to the President of the Italian Republic and has recently been granted his High Permanent Patronage. The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei mission is to promote, coordinate, integrate and spread scientific knowledge in its highest expressions, in the frame of cultural unity and universality. To this end, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei organises national and international conferences, meetings and seminars.

The United States National Academy of Sciences

Established by an Act of Congress signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, the National Academy of Sciences is charged with providing independent, objective advice to the nation on matters related to science and technology. The National Academy of Sciences is committed to furthering science in America, and its members are active contributors to the international scientific community. Nearly 500 members of the National Academy of Sciences have won Nobel Prizes, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, founded in 1914, is today one of the premier international journals publishing the results of original research. The National Academy of Sciences also encourage education and research, recognize outstanding contributions to knowledge, and increase public understanding in matters of science.

Edoardo Amaldi (1908-1989)

Edoardo Amaldi was an Italian Physicist who started his research in Nuclear Physics in collaboration with Enrico Fermi. He has contributed substantially to the current knowledge on artificial radioactivity induced by neutrons and properties of slow neutrons, and gave first direct experimental evidence of the diffraction of fast neutrons by nuclei. After the Second World War, Amaldi was instrumental in the reconstruction of the post-Fermi School of Physics in Italy, and was co-founder of the Italian National Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN), of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and of the European Space Research Organisation (ESRO).

Amaldi supported the Working Group on International Security and Arms Control (SICA) from its inception, organizing the first conference on “International Security and Disarmament: The Role of the Scientific Academies” in Rome from 23 to 25 June 1988. The third conference on “Security in Europe and the Transition away from Confrontation towards Cooperation” was held again in Rome in June 1990. The title, the programme and the specific items had already been established by Edoardo Amaldi (President of the Academy at the time) and the SICA group when he died unexpectedly on 5 December 1989. Participants at this meeting decided to dedicate future meetings to the memory of Edoardo Amaldi, hence the name Amaldi Conferences. Since then the Amaldi Conferences have continued on a regular basis.
A brief history of the Edoardo Amaldi Conferences

In 1980, the United States National Academy of Sciences established a Committee on International Security and Arms Control (CISAC). During the 1980s, with Wolfgang K. H. Panofsky as Chairman, one of CISAC’s main purposes was to maintain bilateral contacts with an analogous group at the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union. In January 1986, CISAC organized in Washington, D.C. a meeting and about ten scientists from European countries participated. In this meeting questions connected to arms control were discussed, together with the possibility of establishing in Europe a group of scientists with a role analogous to that of CISAC. Discussions on international security and armament control were extended beyond the limitation of a direct link between the USA and the USSR.

Francesco Calogero and Carlo Schaerf took part in this meeting and then reported to Edoardo Amaldi, then Vice President of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. He was very much in favour of this initiative and set up a Working Group on International Security and Arms Control (SICA).

The first informal meeting was held in Rome at the Academy on 23-25 June 1988, and was entitled Workshop on International Security and Disarmament: The Role of the Scientific Academies. Participants from Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden and the USA were present at this meeting. On that occasion it was decided to hold an international conference the following year and to invite participants from other European countries, including the Soviet Union.

The second meeting was entitled International Security and Disarmament: the Role of the Scientific Academies and was held in Rome in June 1989.

The third conference, entitled International Conference on Security in Europe and the Transition away from Confrontation towards Cooperation, was held again in Rome in June 1990. The title, the programme, and the specific items had already been established by Edoardo Amaldi (who was President of the Academy at the time) and the SICA group when he died unexpectedly on 5 December 1989. Prof. Giorgio Salvini was elected to succeed him as President of the Academy and decided to continue the Amaldi’s initiative on disarmament and arms control. The third meeting was devoted to problems of peace, environmental cooperation, and measures of effective disarmament in the new international climate. It was at this meeting that the participants decided to dedicate all future conferences to the memory of Edoardo Amaldi, hence the name Amaldi Conferences. Since then the Amaldi Conferences continued on a yearly basis up until 2000, and later periodically.

• IV Amaldi Conference, hosted by the Royal Society (Cambridge, 8-10 July 1991) - Symposium on Science, Technology and International Security.
• V Amaldi Conference, hosted by the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, in collaboration with the German Research Society and the Max Planck Society (Heidelberg, 1-3 July 1992) - International security in a transformed world.
• VI Amaldi Conference, hosted by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Rome, 27-29 September 1993) - A contribution to peace and international security.
• VII Amaldi Conference, hosted by the Polish Academy of Sciences (Jabłonna, Poland, 22-24 September 1994) - *Threats to peace and international security*.
• VIII Conferenza Amaldi, hosted by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Piacenza, birthplace of Edoardo Amaldi, 5-7 October 1995) - *Overcoming the obstacles to peace in the post-Cold War era*.
• IX Amaldi Conference, hosted by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Geneva, 21-23 November 1996) - *Security questions at the end of the Twentieth Century*.
• X Amaldi Conference, hosted by the Académie des Sciences (Paris, 20-22 November 1997) - *The path to a secure world*.
• XI International Amaldi Conference on *Problems of Global Security* (the new title of the Conferences), hosted by the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, 18-20 November 1998).
• XII International Amaldi Conference on *Problems of Global Security*, hosted by the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities (Mainz, 6-9 October 1999).
• XIV International Amaldi Conference on *Problems of Global Security*, hosted by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Certosa di Pontignano, Siena, 27-29 April 2002).
• XVI International Amaldi Conference on *Problems of Global Security*, hosted by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (Trieste, 18-20 November 2004).
• XVII International Amaldi Conference of Academies of Sciences and National Scientific Societies on *Scientific Questions of Global Security*, hosted by the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities (Hamburg, 14-16 March 2008).