

PRESS NOTE

WEBUILD CEO PIETRO SALINI ON RAI 2's RE START: FIGHT THE BATTLE IN EUROPE TO RELAUNCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND EMPLOYMENT IN ITALY

MILAN, March 31, 2021 – “The resources from the Recovery Plan that are expected to be earmarked for investments in infrastructure are not enough. They are a little more than €32 billion for six years, compared with €90 billion that the state would normally budget for these investments over the same period. So the resources to come from the Recovery Plan have to be treated as an addition and not a substitute to what is needed to support the titanic effort that Italy needs to make to relaunch the country and employment. There is no question as to Prime Minister Draghi's credibility in Europe, where we have to fight an important battle to acquire all the resources needed to make the country start again.”

These are the comments made by Pietro Salini, Chief Executive of Webuild, during an interview on “Re Start”, a programme broadcast on Thursday on Rai 2 state television, about the need to investment in infrastructure to boost employment and economic growth.

For Salini, jobs are a top priority in these times of crisis. “Every business should be sustainable. But, for our Group, the real factor for sustainability in a country like ours is the ability to give work especially to young people. We must also relaunch the healthcare sector, which we have seen to be fragile. We need to strengthen these important elements in order to grow with an eye to the future.” This commitment to create jobs in the country was reflected in the industrial operation that led to the acquisition of Astaldi by the Webuild Group. “We saved 20,000 jobs, 15,000 of which at Astaldi and 5,000 people that we hired thanks to an operation like Progetto Italia, done with CDP Equity, Intesa Sanpaolo, UniCredit and Banco BPM. And we will keep hiring. The future for a young person in this country has to start with their studies, while for us entrepreneurs every effort must be done to give them jobs.”

But companies, continued Salini, must be given the conditions under which they can work. “The rules for public tenders are often an obstacle because they are written not with the idea getting projects built but to ensure a long process that is often not very effective. If we return to European regulation - as do many countries - we could overcome this obstacle, just like we did to build the bridge in Genoa. This model can be replicated with a capable public administration that collaborates with capable construction companies.”

The Group would be able immediately to start work on the bridge over the Strait of Messina and create a crucial axis connecting Sicily and enhancing the value of rail in Italy. “We are investing €20 billion from Naples to Palermo and the bridge is indispensable for Italy. On the topic of public works, we often forget the cost of not doing them. For example, the cost of not doing the bridge over the Strait of Messina is €6 billion a year in lost tourism and trade.”

Having said this, continued Salini, it is necessary to proceed quickly with the vaccination programme to put the country in a condition to start up again. “We are ready to support the vaccination programme inside our company, making available our staff and structures.”

Webuild, the new group born in 2020 from Salini Impregilo, is a leading global player in the construction of large, complex projects for sustainable mobility, clean hydro energy, clean water, green buildings, supporting clients in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Group is the expression of 115 years of engineering experience applied in 50 countries on five continents with 70,000 direct and indirect employees from more than 100 nationalities. Recognised for five years by Engineering News-Record (ENR) as the world leader in water infrastructure (such as dams, hydraulic tunnels, water and wastewater management, and water



treatment and desalination plants), it ranks since 2018 among the top 10 in the environment sector and it is also leader in sustainable mobility (especially metro and rail lines, in addition to roads and bridges). A signatory of the United Nations Global Compact, the Group's expertise is displayed in projects such as the M4 metro line in Milan, Grand Paris Express, Cityringen in Copenhagen, Sydney Metro Northwest, Red Line North Underground in Doha, Line 3 of the Riyadh Metro and the high-speed railways in Italy. Other projects include the new Genoa Bridge and the Gerald Desmond replacement bridge in Long Beach, California, the expansion of the Panama Canal, the Snowy 2.0 hydroelectric power station in Australia, the Rogun hydroelectric dam in Tajikistan, the Anacostia River and Northeast Boundary tunnels in Washington, D.C. and the Al Bayt 2022 World Cup stadium in Qatar. In 2020, the Group's total order backlog reached €41.7 billion, with 89% of the backlog of construction orders involving projects that support the SDGs set by the United Nations. Webuild, subject to direction and coordination by Salini Costruttori SpA, is headquartered in Italy and is listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (Borsa Italiana: WBD; Reuters: WBD.MI; Bloomberg: WBD:IM).

[More information at www.webuildgroup.com](http://www.webuildgroup.com)



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