

PRESS NOTE

PIETRO SALINI: ITALY MUST RESUME PLANNING ACTIVITIES TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT AND GROW SUSTAINABLY, TANGIBLY ASSIGNING ALL POSSIBLE WORKS

Milan, May 6, 2021 - "We want to grow in Italy, creating jobs and building sustainable works. To do so, we only ask to work. We have many construction sites open and to be opened, in many regions. We are asking all those involved, to speed up the tender processes. We are in an emergency, and every tender awarded means thousands of people working. In the next two months, *RFI* is ready to activate 7 construction sites, as an extraordinary lever for Italy's GDP growth, in addition to the Recovery Plan. *Ferrovie dello Stato* alone are developing a plan of over €58 billion, of which €35 billion are still to be tendered. This could create a total of 650,000 potential employees, taking into consideration all related industries. "This is what Webuild CEO Pietro Salini said at the *Il Messaggero* webinar "*Obbligati a crescere*" (Forced to grow). He also added that "We came back to Italy to respond to a call to arms. We wanted to put ourselves at the service of our country during this key relaunch phase, where infrastructure will play a decisive role for employment".

To face the post-COVID recovery "we must firstly decide which country we want to be in the next 30 years. We must choose our mission, acting accordingly, with targeted industry, tourism, school and hospital plans, while also regenerating urban and sustainable mobility infrastructure", continued Pietro Salini. In doing so, he indicated that the €235 billion, the total foreseen by the PNRR, and by the additional resources made available by REACT EU and the Complementary Fund, barely suffice to really change Italy, in an anti-cyclical perspective, at least. And this is obviously true if we just consider how profound the crisis is. And that Italy was already in a very difficult condition, even before the pandemic broke out.

"We must compare the PNRR resources to the 9,600 billion-GDP expected for the next 6 years. Against which the PNRR resources amount to approximately 2.5% of the GDP: i.e. what we spent before the crisis. We are in an emergency. And we must therefore use emergency tools to relaunch our country. The PNRR is a very important tool. Still, it only represents, just one aspect of a plan that must necessarily be a broader one. We already spent 200 billion, in support, during this epochal crisis. We must transform these resources into tools for Italy's continuous growth. The infrastructure included in the PNRR also concern works already in progress. We must still think of tools able to create additional employment, providing a real sprint to the economy, therefore generating new trust, and a related reactivate demand. We all lived, as if suspended, this year. And we did not use the available time to plan for our future. This is why we must do so immediately, also by designing new works throughout Italy. Italian engineering exported great skills, globally. It is made up of large design companies and freelance professionals, which must start immediately working to design the infrastructure of the Italy that we want to become in the next 30 years".

According to Salini, employment must be a priority. It is, in fact, the real issue when it comes to sustainability. "With 4.5 million more unemployed people, at the end of the pandemic, we now must talk about environmental sustainability, and how to reduce emissions. These issues must be seen as objectives of shared growth. And this must be done, with new forms of production, capable of creating greater employment. Our company has launched its 2021-2023 ESG plan. We strongly believe in it. And this year, it also safeguarded employment for thousands of people, too. Sustainability means growing responsibly. It means relaunching employment, by retraining those who are losing their jobs, with the new skills needed by the market. And with sustainable production, going hand in hand with the relaunch of employment".

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. Recognized 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 new Gerald Desmond 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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