

PRESS NOTE

SALINI AT COIMA EVENT ON URBAN REGENERATION: FINDING THE ABILITY TO PLAN, TO CREATE JOBS NOW AND A FUTURE VISION FOR ITALY

Milan - May 12, 2021 - A common vision for the future. A proactive, non-divisive spirit that relaunches a new ability of designing and building to create new jobs now, considering employment as the first true form of sustainability. These are the main challenges that Italy must be able to face today, said Webuild CEO Pietro Salini, during the digital event "*Rigenerazione Urbana*" (Urban Regeneration), organized by COIMA, a platform that focuses on investing, developing and managing real estate assets, on behalf of institutional investors.

Maintenance, sustainable mobility for cities and between cities, interventions against hydrogeological instability, and the effective management of water resources are needed now, to shape a better future for Italy. Still, according to Salini, we first must start by relaunching employment, supporting the demand, also by using record private savings, which are currently mostly unused.

"We have to race against time, to start working on projects included in the PNRR, in 2026. Still, we face an even greater challenge, which is planning for the future, for which we do not need to wait until the PNRR is activated. We must start now" - commented Salini. "Our Group has just joined OICE (Association of Engineering and Architecture Organizations) because the greatest contribution that Webuild can make to Italy today is to offer our experience, setting this thought machine in motion. Performing works is always possible. It is their planning that represents the longest and most complicated phase. From the moment of a work's conception to its awarding, before a tender is actually launched, in Italy, it normally takes 10-15 years. With these times, we cannot carry out the provisions set out in the PNRR. And above all, we will not be able to give Italy the stimulus it really needs now. It is our duty, then, to invent our industry's and Italy's future. Now, we have the opportunity. And we can do it."

Salini then continued by saying, "we must consider that the PNRR provides for limited resources. We must mobilize all available resources, including private ones, which amount to the record figure of €1,800 billion, blocked in bank deposits. To do this, we must build confidence in the future. We must all roll up our sleeves and do our part. We must regain the momentum that existed during Italy's 50s, rebuilding a country, which was already devastated before the pandemic broke out. We have already spent almost €200 billion on support: A sum that is currently blocked on current accounts, due to the negative expectations of the market and households. The Italian State must make an enormous effort to create a new climate of trust, mobilizing these resources. Consider that €200 billion for potential investments in urban regeneration projects can create 1.5 million jobs".

"In terms of priority for infrastructural investments", Pietro Salini concluded, "Italy has invested very little in the sector, over the past 10 years. We must firstly, therefore, act through short-term interventions, starting with maintenance. The technical life of the concrete works built in the 50s has, in fact, been largely exceeded. We must invest in sustainable mobility, creating efficient metro networks, while avoiding private urban travel. If Genoa and Milan were already joined, today, by the high-speed railway, which Webuild is building now, we could travel between these two cities in just 40 minutes. To achieve this, though, it is necessary to count, not on special laws, but on a continuous and collective inspiration, and European legislation, just as we did for the Genoa San Giorgio Bridge, and all this is possible now. This has already happened in the past, if we just think for a moment at the *Autostrada del Sole*, which was built in just 7 years, despite it crossing the whole of Italy."

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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