

PRESS NOTE

PIETRO SALINI AT THE "STATI GENERALI DELL'EXPORT 2021: STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MORE JOBS, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH OF ITALY AND OF THE "MADE IN ITALY"

FINANCE, GUARANTEES, TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR ITALY'S RECOVERY

Marsala, September 24, 2021 - "The PNRR is an extensive plan that will greatly impact Italy thanks also to the Italian government's efforts in implementing the programme, where accompanied by implementation measures, and the use of all the available resources, besides those provided by the PNRR. More extensive structural interventions are also needed to make the recovery stable and lasting. This applies to all sectors that through export face competition on the global markets, as well as to Italy's construction sector, affected by a serious structural pre-pandemic crisis. To rebuild the country from North to South, we must speed-up the conditions that allow the start-up of construction sites that carry out the works, also eliminating the bottlenecks that slow down the recovery, while investing, and spending the available funds immediately. We must intervene on the system of guarantees, providing finances to companies, so that they can operate competitively on the market, with the correct advances and a healthy system that allows for price revisions in contracts, and to compensate for the sharp increase in the cost of the raw materials."

This is what Webuild CEO Pietro Salini said during the three days of the "*Stati Generali dell'Export 2021*" event, organized by the Italian Export Forum with the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation: An opportunity for discussion for the sector operators, institutions and companies, on the state of Italian exports, and on the role of infrastructure for Italy's growth.

"We need to start from the South, a region of great resources and great talents, to engage Italy's economic recovery. "The South greatly needs new infrastructure. Works can be done well and economically with local companies and in compliance with regulations thereby creating a future for young people there, providing them with adequate training. This will allow them to stay where they are instead of going elsewhere causing these regions to be increasingly poor in terms of a ruling class. "Together with our entire supply chain of small and medium-sized companies that have been working with us for years we are putting ourselves at the disposal of the system, ready as we are to quickly implement the other strategic works that still need to be launched in the south of Italy. We are speaking of an Italian supply chain of 7,000 direct suppliers, of which over 1,700 involved in 15 major projects in the South, which represents an excellence in the construction sector".

"We need to manage the scarcity of human resources currently being experienced since such massive investments have not been made since the 90s. To support the recovery it is important that technical and university training is at the heart of Italy's development strategies", continued Salini. "Webuild is speeding-up the awarding of scholarships, our collaboration with the universities, our company internships. And we are also planning to launch professional training initiatives. Those who train with us also find job opportunities in many foreign countries where we export our know-how, for example the high-speed railway projects in Texas, or one of the largest hydroelectric plants in Australia (Snowy), and the Grand Paris Express metro in Paris.



Webuild is now present in over 50 countries globally, with a project backlog mainly distributed in Italy (44%), North America (10%), Australia (9%) and Europe (9%). Now present in over 50 countries globally, the Group leads the sustainable mobility sector, with a track record that includes the construction of over 13,600 km of railways and subways, and approximately 80,300 kilometres of roads and motorways. In southern Italy the Group already works on ten active construction sites. Another five are about to become operational, involving 11,000 people including direct and indirect workers, as well as people employed through indirect activities.

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 over 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. It also leads the sustainable mobility sector (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 supporting 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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