

PRESS RELEASE

ITALY IN 10 SELFIES

FACING THE FUTURE WITH A HUMAN-SCALE ECONOMY

ITALY IS A SUPERPOWER IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND BOASTS THE HIGHEST RECYCLING RATE OF ALL ITS WASTE: 79%, TWICE THE EUROPEAN AVERAGE

432,000 ITALIAN COMPANIES HAVE INVESTED IN GREEN PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES OVER 2015-2019

THE LARGEST RENEWABLE ENERGY OPERATOR IS ITALIAN: ENEL IS THE MOST CAPITALISED PRIVATE ELECTRICITY COMPANY ON EUROPEAN STOCK MARKETS

ITALY LEADS IN PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION WITH 32.2 BILLION EUROS

ITALIAN AGRICULTURE IS THE BEST IN EUROPE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND QUALITY MANUFACTURING

ITALY IS THE LEADING EUROPEAN BICYCLE EXPORTER: A TOTAL OF 1,776,300 BICYCLES SOLD ABROAD (2019)

REALACCI (SYMBOLA FOUNDATION): "WE NEED TO FIND A JOINT MISSION TO GET THE ECONOMY MOVING AGAIN. TACKLING THE COVID19 PANDEMIC AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS NOT ONLY NECESSARY BUT ALSO - AS WE STATED IN THE ASSISI MANIFESTO - REPRESENTS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE OUR ECONOMY AND OUR SOCIETY MORE SUSTAINABLE AND THEREFORE MORE FUTURE-PROOF. IT IS A HUGE CHALLENGE THAT REQUIRES THE BEST TECHNOLOGICAL, INSTITUTIONAL, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES. IT HAS TO BE TAKEN FORWARD WITHOUT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND, WITHOUT LEAVING ANYONE ALONE. EUROPE HAS ACCEPTED THIS CHALLENGE BY MOBILISING SIGNIFICANT ASSETS AROUND THE THEMES OF COHESION, GREEN TRANSITION, DIGITAL ECONOMY, INNOVATION, AND BY COMMITTING TO ZERO NET CO2 EMISSIONS BY 2050. ITALY IS OFTEN ABLE TO SEE ITS SHORTCOMINGS, WITHOUT ACTUALLY DEALING WITH THEM, BUT IS INCAPABLE OF RECOGNISING ITS STRENGTHS, AS REMINDED BY PRESIDENT DRAGHI. YET, THERE IS NOTHING INHERENTLY WRONG WITH ITALY THAT CANNOT BE CORRECTED WITH WHAT IS RIGHT. THESE TEN SELFIES SHOW SOME OF THE TALENTS WE CAN PUT IN THE FIELD".

Rome, 8 April 2021. Italy in 10 selfies 2021 takes a snapshot, like every year, of some of our country's strengths, based on reports published by Symbola Foundation. The dossier has been realised in collaboration with Unioncamere and Assocamerestero, with the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Ecological Transition. The report is also widely used to narrate Italy in the world and is therefore translated into many languages, including **English, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese and Japanese**. It has been presented this morning at the Foreign Press Room by **Ermete Realacci**, President of the Symbola Foundation, **Marteen Van Aalderen**, President of the Foreign Press, **Marina Sereni**, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, **Roberto Cingolani**, Minister of Ecological Transition.

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"We need to find a joint mission to revitalise the economy. Tackling the COVID19 pandemic and the climate crisis -says **Ermete Realacci, president of Symbola Foundation**- is not only necessary but also, as the Assisi Manifesto states, represents a significant opportunity to make our economy and society more sustainable, healthier, and therefore more future-proof. It is a fundamental challenge that requires the best technological, institutional, political, social and cultural resources. It has to be taken forward without leaving anyone behind, without leaving anyone alone. Europe has accepted this challenge by mobilising significant assets around the themes of cohesion, green transition, digital economy, innovation and by committing to the goal of reducing CO2 emissions to zero by 2050. Italy can give an important contribution to this challenge in many sectors in which it already plays a leading role, as we outline in this dossier, related to a way of producing that is attentive to quality, the environment and human relations. A stronger and at the same time more sustainable economy: starting with the circular economy, in which Italy has achieved results double the European average and much higher than those of all major countries. Italy can be the outpost of an economy that is stronger and more sustainable, and on a more human scale. Italy can often see its shortcomings without actually dealing with them but is incapable of recognising its strengths, as reminded by president Draghi. Yet there's nothing inherently wrong with Italy that cannot be corrected with what's right. These ten selfies show some of the talents we can put in the field".

Few people know that:

- Italy is a superpower in the circular economy, with the highest percentage of recycling on the total amount of waste: 79%, higher than the European average, thus saving 63 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent.
- The largest renewable energy operator is Italian. ENEL is the most capitalised private electricity company on European stock markets.
- 432,000 Italian companies have invested in green products and technologies over 2015-2019. They innovate the most, export the most and generate the most employment.
- According to a study by Oxford University, Italy ranks second in the world to export technologically advanced green products and has the potential to be first.
- Italy is first in Europe for number of design companies with 15.5% of the total.
- We are world leaders in terms of trade balance in the yachting sector.
- In the wood furniture sector, Italy leads the European circular economy with 93% of recycled wood chipboard and is third in the world in terms of trade balance for furniture.
- We are leading the way in sustainability in agriculture, with emissions (30 million tonnes of CO2) well below France (76 million) and Germany (66 million).
- We are European leaders in pharmaceutical production, with 32.2 billions, just behind Germany with 32.9 billions.
- We are the first European exporters of bicycles, with 1,779,300 bikes sold abroad. We are world leaders in the production of saddles, with 53.9% of the world total.

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These are some of the snapshots of "**Italy in 10 selfies 2021**", the full report can be found on www.symbola.net

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