

The Conferenza dell'Industria Solare – Italia (CIS - IT 2010) has been promoted by Solarpraxis AG, one of the leading organisers of conferences in the renewable energy sector since 1998, together with Ambiente Italia and eclareon

The sun market, driver for the Italian economy

With more than 400 participants, 60 International and national key-note speakers and the absence of the Italian Government, the Conferenza dell'Industria Solare (CIS-IT2010) comes to an end today: the notion being reinforced in these two days is that the solar sector keeps expanding and growing. This is a given despite all the false myths.

(Rome, February 12th 2010) - According to Riccardo Lama from Enel Distribution, a propagated generation of solar electricity does not involve real risks for the power grid: "if 2 of the usual 3 KW used by 30 million residential customers came from solar energy, the grid wouldn't be affected" so the conflict doesn't exist - but this is not the only good news.

The overall situation of solar industry is definitively very positive. The PV associations, GIFI and Assosolare, have both underlined the development of this particular sector. The president of GIFI, Gert Gremes, declared: "*in 2009 the PV sector in Italy generated more than € 2 billion turnover, with a very significant employment data: nearly 20.000 jobs all along our country, ranging from production to distribution and installation*".

Maintaining a constant growth is a crucial point also according to Gianni Chianetta, President of Assosolare: "*stability, straight rules and a long-term investment perspective*".

The same goes for the Thermic solar market. Valeria Verga, Secretary General of Assolterm, declared that "*The true copernican revolution can only happen through a real implementation of the European directive about renewables. Italy needs to act within a national and international legislative framework that has to be consistent and helpful*". Olivier Drücke, ESTIF president, also expressed his surprise about "*the absence and silence of the Italian institutions, especially facing a market that is clearly increasing and because of the need to hold down costs, especially during crisis times like the ones we are now experiencing*".

Actually, the "Paese del sole" Institutions have been conspicuous by their absence. The Conference scheduled the presence of the Ministero per lo Sviluppo Economico to show the Renewable Energy Action Plan. The Ministry himself was invited to discuss the Italian relaunch of nuclear energy, but no representatives appeared.

Despite the Government silence, the Italian solar industry thrives. The second and last day of the Conference works faced the game points of Italy: Huge solar resources, high energy prices, strong dependence upon raw material imports and a big potential for solar energy in private and industrial buildings.

The Conference promoters are happy to announce "the event has been declared to be a platform for an ideal dialogue between Italian and foreign operators", as Severine Schniepp, from Solarpraxis, stated. According to Riccardo Battisti from Ambiente Italia, "this is a point of no return" for renewables. There's a strong push from the obligations imposed by European Directives but, above all, from the strong will of private citizens. A perfect example is shown by the several local institutions that implemented financing and installation best practices".

Finally, Raffaele Piria by eclareon said "The CIS-IT showed how solar energy can effectively contribute to the attainment of Italian growth goals on renewables. Unfortunately, the Italian Government was not there: no feedback whatsoever, not even about the National Renewable Plan required by the European Directive".



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