The view from Italy: solar business calls on the government to support the PV sector

Paolo Rocco Viscontini
President
ITALIA SOLARE, «the» Italian PV Association

- Founded in 2015, the **only association** in Italy totally dedicated to solar PV
- > 800 **members**
- 10 **working groups**
- **ITALIA SOLARE Forum** (December), the most important **Italian solar event**
Our most recent and significant activities

• Effective cooperation with political parties initially and now with the Italian Energy Authority to support the start-up of **energy communities** in Italy

• Information and promotion about the opportunities offered by the coexistence of **large PV plants** on the ground and agriculture/animal farming

• Intense lobby activity to promote an effective **credit assignment** to promote residential PV plants

• **Letter to Prime Minister** Giuseppe Conte listing measures to support the relaunch of the Italian economy thanks to strong adoption of solar PV
The Italian situation

• Italy was the first European country to be heavily affected by Covid-19 and it’s still one of the most afflicted worldwide

• April 22nd:
  o 25,085 total official deaths (only USA has registered more), 50% of them in Lombardy alone
  o Rate of contagion is progressively decreasing, but daily death numbers remain high (430-570 deaths/day)

For Italy Covid-19 is by far the most severe crisis since the Second World War
The Italian situation

- Initial lockdown applied to a limited area, end of February
- Since March 7th: total national lockdown
- Since March 22nd: permit to some activities to restart
- Since April 20th: some first factories reopened
- May 4th: expected wider reopening (details under discussion)

*Lockdown is surely effective – Big concerns about risks related to resumption of economic activities*
Covid-19 impact on PV activities

- March 7<sup>th</sup> - March 22<sup>nd</sup> → total lockdown, no PV activities in the field
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> - April 23<sup>rd</sup> (today) → Ok to O&M activities, no new installations
- New installations expected to resume after May 4<sup>th</sup>

Limited impact on O&M activities / Huge impact on new installations
ITALIA SOLARE survey

418 active respondents

Orders reduction % → % of respondents

0% - 25% → 29,2%
25% - 50% → 17%
50% - 75% → 22,5%
75% - 100% → 31,3%

53,8% of companies are registering a real collapse in orders (> 50%)
Almost half of PV companies will need to lay off people to avoid bankruptcy.
ITALIA SOLARE survey

PPA price reductions

25% of respondents report a price reduction >40%

Authorization prices reduction

No impact → 43.8%
0% - 10% → 20.8%
10% - 30% → 14.6%
30% - 50% → 20.8%
>50% → 8.3%

65% of developers are substantially defending prices
As of today the Italian government has focused on decisions to impose emergency status and to support people and companies financially.

In the next weeks/months we expect (and hope) structural measures to support the recovery.

On April 9th ITALIA SOLARE wrote a letter to Prime Minister Conte asking for recovery initiatives based on «green actions», considering PV as a pillar for the economic restart, and calling for 9 precise actions supporting the PV market.
ITALIA SOLARE 9 requests to the Prime Minister

1. Less severity in GSE inspections of subsidized plants

2. Quick and effective start up of energy communities

3. Activation of credit assignment defending small and medium companies

4. Bureaucratic simplification for repowering and revamping of existing plants (2nd most requested in our survey)

5. Reintroduction of Energy Efficiency Certificates for PV plants
6. **Unblocking and speeding up authorization procedures** for PV plants, starting from plants installed on the ground *(most requested in our survey)*

7. Support for the expansion of **storage and electric mobility**

8. Finalise **reform to the dispatching system** and allow PV plants to participate in **energy market** and **grid services**

9. Different **electric tariffs** to support the use of renewables

*Adopting ITALIA SOLARE’s requests would allow Italy to reach 3-5 GWp/year as soon as possible, meaning about 100,000 new jobs can be created.*
Conclusions

The tragedy of Covid-19 could and should be transformed into an opportunity to develop a renewed, modern, digital and clean industrial revolution, where PV can surely be a dominant sector.

In general and for every area and decision, a different approach to the Planet is needed.

Respect must be our goal and our guiding principle.