

#SAVIOLATALKS:

Circular economy and Made in Italy



The circular economy is one of the pillars of ecological transition. Italy can play a leading role thanks to the many virtuous experiences promoted by municipalities, public companies, private companies and research centres, which are absolutely in the vanguard. In fact, we can count on important excellence on an international level: Milan is the most important metropolitan experience of separate collection in the world; we have unique industrial recycling plants in the world, such as the one that recovers material from diapers in Spresiano (TV) or the green chemistry plant that produces butanediol from renewable sources in Adria (RO).

With the transposition of the package of European directives on the circular economy, the framework within which states must operate until 2035 has finally been defined. Now, however, we must replicate the positive experiences, share the knowledge, raise the skills of a sector that still has great potential for development. It will create new jobs, bring savings for businesses, benefit the quality of the environment and combat the climate crisis. An important crossroads for the country will be the necessary completion of plant infrastructure, starting from the most backward regions, making best use of the resources of the Next Generation EU. Because investments in eco-design and prevention policies are essential, but there is no circular economy without industrial recycling plants.

For years we have argued that in order to achieve zero waste for disposal, it is necessary to create a thousand new plants for urban waste, special, hazardous and by-products, to make every Italian province self-sufficient. However, in order to create the facilities, citizens' trust in the institutions must be increased, which is always very low, in order to reduce mistrust and conflict. To do this, it is necessary to increase the quality level of environmental controls and territorial sharing in the construction of the plants.

Finally, a paradigm shift is needed for the circular transition of the economy to take place, starting from the simplification of rules and authorisations, from the construction of a thriving market for recycled products through compliance with the rules on green purchases, from a finance compatible with environmental and social factors. If we are able to do all this, we will be able to close the circle of the Italian economy. Our country can do it. All that is needed is to activate the lever of political will that has been lacking until now, and that's it.

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