

## Today situation

In these days in Italy we live moments of anguish for the people submerged by the snow avalanche that has swept away the Rigopiano Hotel on the slopes of the Gran Sasso and for the situation of the territories of Central Italy plagued by the earthquake and submerged by snow. On the other hand, we lived a very long summer until the end of November 2016.

This premise to say that the phenomenon of climate change is responsible for the climate imbalance and for the swift of the climate with no snow in the Alps and abundant snowfalls throughout central and southern Italy. Human and economic costs are very high. But we find difficulties in planning a strategic policy on the territory and on economic activities that will prevent further problems. Also, on January 20 in the US took office a new president who denies climate change and appointed Oklahoma general attorney Scott Pruitt as head of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Scott Pruitt has led 28 US states lawsuits against EPA's Clean Power Plan, aimed at reducing pollution from coal-fired power plants and obtained over \$ 250,000 in donations from the oil industry. In other words, he puts climate change in doubt.

We find ourselves in the absurd situation that today China is one of the economic powers to lead the countries who are sensitive to the consequences of climate change on human activities and also on economic ones.

In Italy the debate on these issues is underdeveloped and as head of the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea, by Gentiloni government was confirmed an accountant from Bologna (Gian Luca Galletti).

Italy is struggling to plan on a political level a comprehensive intervention strategy. On this issue, Italian companies are facing the request for commitment from international institutional investors, NGOs and United Nations agencies. The main Italian listed companies have not signed the United Nations Global Compact Principles and the Carbon Disclosure Project.

In particular, listed companies in the energy sector and the *utilities* undertake commitments with institutional investors to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions with coal plant disinvestment, investments in renewables and energy efficiency. To continue with these policies they need skills on this issue also in the Board of Directors.

The scandal over the false texts on the emission of greenhouse gases in the automotive industry are certainly due to the absence of environmental culture in the companies, but also to governance lacks, as in the case of Volkswagen, where there were inefficiencies at board level.

In this situation, I would consider it necessary to propose the creation of a working group in NED on these topics, which would increasingly raise awareness among the associates on issues related to climate change and on the policies to be conducted in various sectors to contribute to the mitigation efforts already done. The topic is important and must be faced with a collective effort at all levels to prevent it from becoming too late.

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### **The article of Canadian newspaper "Le Devoir"**

On September 30, 2016, seven prominent climate scientists gave the warning that rise in temperatures on Earth is accelerating and "efforts must be doubled, better tripled," to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Otherwise the average temperature on the planet, starting from 2050, might rise by 2°C compared to the pre-industrial era.

These scientists ring the alarm bell in a seven-page release that summarize a new detailed analysis entitled "The truth about climate change". "Heating is produced now and much faster than expected," insists Robert Watson, former Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change Experts (GIEC).

This year the planet is beating its third consecutive annual record of the hottest year since the beginning of temperature readings in 1880 and Watson claims that "without further efforts from the main greenhouse gas emitters, temperature rise of 2 ° C on earth could become reality before 2050".

The group of experts points out that, even if all the signatory countries of the Paris agreement adhere to their commitments to limit the rise in temperatures, global greenhouse gas emissions would not decrease rapidly enough over the next 15 years.

To stay below 2°C, global CO2 emissions should be zero by now until 2060. A goal that seems complicated, given that 82% of the entire global energy currently comes from the combustion of oil (31%), coal (29%) and natural gas (22%).

### **Contact**

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