



URC 2025: Italy between industrial innovation and humanitarian commitment for Kiev

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The **Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC 2025)**, held in **Rome on July 10 and 11**, confirmed Italy's growing role in the multilateral process of **rebuilding Ukraine**. The fourth meeting after **Lugano (2022)**, **London (2023)**, and **Berlin (2024)**, the Roman conference consolidated the European commitment on four fundamental directions: **attraction of private investments, reintegration of displaced citizens, involvement of local authorities, and structural reforms for Kiev's EU membership**.

In Rome, **100 delegations, 15 Heads of State and Government, 40 international organizations, 40 ministers, and over 8,300 accredited participants** gathered, with a parallel Recovery Forum that allowed businesses and financial institutions to directly engage with the Ukrainian government. Italy emerged as the **absolute protagonist**, signing **40 agreements** worth over **10 billion euros**, many of which are linked to the reconstruction of

Odessa, a symbolic city of the Black Sea.

Odessa was officially **entrusted to Italy** as part of the “**international patronage**” mechanism, with projects aimed at **rebuilding cultural heritage**, including the **Cathedral of the Transfiguration**, the **Philharmonic**, and the **Fine Arts Museum**. But Italy's commitment is not limited to culture. A **strategic agreement** was signed between **Deputy Minister Rixi** and the Ukrainian counterpart Alona Shkrum for the **modernization and infrastructure development of Ukrainian ports**, particularly in Odessa, a key hub for **energy, telecommunications, and trade**.

Defense, security, and Italian companies: technology and cooperation for Ukrainian resilience

The crucial role of the **Defense and Security sector** was also at the center of the conference. Enzo Benigni, president of **Elt Group** and deputy vice president of **AIAD**, clarified that the goal is not to “sell” but to build **structured collaborations** in the long term, highlighting a previously unthinkable European political will. Industrial cooperation between Europe and Ukraine, he stated, is a **geopolitical necessity** that must be supported by a **removal of regulatory obstacles** and an acceleration in the **supply of strategic goods**.

At the forefront is **Leonardo**, which, together with **ENAV** and **UkSATSE**, signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation** for the restoration of the Ukrainian **air traffic control network**. CEO **Roberto Cingolani** announced the **donation of 5 civilian radars** and reiterated that the plan will continue in coordination with European partners. Leonardo has also initiated a collaboration with the Turkish **Baykar** for the **production of drones in Italy**, but categorically denied the possibility of a **factory in Ukraine**.

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Leonardo also offers contributions in the field of **cybersecurity, satellite observation, and AI applied to critical infrastructure control**. Cingolani also opened to **collaboration with Rheinmetall** on tanks, in a coordinated framework of military support to Ukraine.

Also **Fincantieri**, represented by CEO **Pierroberto Folgiero**, has advanced an innovative vision of maritime security: underwater drones, sonar, and radars integrated into a modular system to be tested right in **Odessa**, to protect energy and port infrastructures. The goal is to create a “**security bubble**” of 25 km, symbolizing Italy's ability to combine **technology, strategic vision, and industrial responsibility**.

Humanitarian reconstruction: health, children, and veterans

Completing the picture of Italy's commitment is the action on the **humanitarian and health front**, with the **Defense Industries Agency (AID)** at the forefront. As explained by director **Fiammetta Salmoni**, Italy, through the **Florence Chemical Pharmaceutical Plant**, will provide **incubators, diagnostic equipment, neonatal intensive care devices**, and medical training, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** and the **Agency for Development Cooperation**.

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These interventions will have a direct impact on **over 400,000 children and adolescents**, including **50,000 displaced minors**, in the Odessa oblast, contributing to the reconstruction of the social fabric. The conference also launched a path of **wider medical cooperation**, including the supply of **orphan drugs for rare diseases** and **psychological support for children and war veterans**, in synergy with the **Lisova Polyana center**.

In the context of an ongoing war and with **damages estimated at over 200 billion dollars**, Italy has taken a leading role, affirming the principle that **security also involves health, education, and culture**. The **World Bank** estimates a need of **over 500 billion** for reconstruction, requiring a **coordinated multilateral effort**, in which Italy proposes itself as a **stable and credible partner**.

The **Rome Conference** confirmed that rebuilding Ukraine does not only mean **repairing what has been destroyed**, but **designing a shared European future**, based on security, sustainable development, and social cohesion. Italy, with its **defense industry, entrepreneurial system, and human capital**, has shown it is ready to face this challenge,

building a **strategic bridge between the West and Ukraine**, between solidarity and opportunity.

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