



Press Release

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MOUNTAINS PROTAGONIST OF THE G8 SUMMIT

L'AQUILA, Italy -- A huge poster with mountains, glaciers and water. This is the scenography of the main conference hall where the G8 Summit, hosted in Italy between July 8th and July 10th, is going on. An unusual scenario for a political summit, but very symbolic: for the first time since the beginning of G8 summits, the mountains make the scene of the debate among the most important Heads of State and Governments of the world.

The 35th G8 summit is ongoing in L'Aquila, an Italian city recently hit by a disastrous earthquake. It's a city who lays on a hillside surrounded by the Apennine Mountains, with the spectacular mount Gran Sasso d'Italia to the north-east. It's just this mountain, that has a strong relationship with the city, the protagonist of the G8 scenario.

This mountain is the symbol of a G8 summit that seems to be different from the previous ones. The leaders seem to have understood that the revival of a planet in crisis should get through sustainable development, environment protection and green technologies that could get the economy off the ground.

A few months ago, Jeremy Rifkin wrote that we are on the threshold of a major change: from a post-industrial economy to a green economy. An exceptional turning-point that many people have named as the "green revolution". Well, the first signs of this revolution have already shown. Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the new "Climate change bill", a law that imposes strict limits on the pollutant emissions. This law, to be approved by the U.S. Senate, is considered as a major priority in the President's agenda and gangs up with the great investments of the U.S. government in green technologies that are going to change the whole U.S. industry.

Italy is taking steps forward, too, especially in the research and environmental field. The first global monitoring network at high altitude is an Italian project: Share (Stations at high altitude for reaserach on environments). It has about 13 monitoring sites all over the world, in Karakorum, Africa, Europe and the Himalayas: the highest station is in Nepal, installed at 8000 m.a.s.l., on Everest South Col. All these stations analyze the atmosphere and the pollutants minute after minute, giving real time and precious data to international scientific projects, above all those of Unep. A great result of the hard work of the EvK2Cnr Committee.

Mountains are now globally considered as a key factor to understand and address global problems like pollution, melting glaciers, extreme weather phenomena, droughts, water shortage and even hunger or emigration and their geopolitical consequences. The Gran Sasso d'Italia, subject of all the posters of the G8 summit, is there to remark the strength and the several resources of mountain territories like the Abruzzo region, severely hit by the earthquake, and at the same time to draw attention to the environment, the climate and the glaciers, all key issues for this 35th G8 summit.

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The leaders assembled in L'Aquila - Italy, United States, Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Canada and Japan; plus the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and the chairman of European Union, the Swede Fredrik Reinfeldt - will talk about this "new frontier" of the world economy, where the mountains are more and more important, and about the environment as a real opportunity for development and as the fuel of the global recovery.

The issues on their table will be: signs of the recession end, financial regulations, global trade, climate change, aids to poor countries and sustainable development. Then, as the "Major Economies Forum (MEF)", the eight leaders will meet representatives of the United Nations and Denmark – who will host the UN summit on climate change next December - to debate on global warming issues. After having met some representatives of African nations and international organizations, the 8 leaders will talk about food.

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