

■ Press Release

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FORATOM welcomes Italy's historic decision to lift nuclear ban

The Italian Parliament adopted yesterday a bill bringing to an end a ban on the use of nuclear energy that had been in place since 1987. The announcement paves the way for the building of nuclear power plants in Italy.

The adoption of the new law reversing Italy's long-standing nuclear ban is an historic event. The fleet of new nuclear power plants will help Italy ensure a more secure and reliable energy supply while diversifying its generation portfolio's (today oil and gas cover more than 50% of the Italian power production, making Italy dependent from imports), and make it better equipped to meet its climate change obligations thanks to nuclear energy's non-CO2 emitting profile.

Commenting on the adoption of Italy's new nuclear law, the Director General of FORATOM (the association representing the European nuclear industry), Santiago San Antonio, said: *"This historic decision shows that the nuclear revival across Europe continues to gather momentum and that more and more countries now recognise that the arguments in favour of nuclear energy are irresistible. It will inspire other countries that are considering a similar political path to press ahead."*

For more information contact Mark O'Donovan at:

Tel.: + 32 2 505 32 26

E-mail: mark.odonovan@foratom.org