

This is how the mafia gains energy by Carlo Cambi

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Subject by Ursula von der Leyen, screenplay by Bankitalia... unfortunately, Francesco Rosi is missing as director, otherwise we could aim for the Oscar for a horror film: «Hands on the countryside». The supporters of green at all costs do not want to hear it, yet in the granite certainties about the future of a humanity with zero emissions, wide cracks open up and suspicions of illegality gather while an ever-increasing intolerance of the populations is mounting, wondering if a wind turbine or a photovoltaic panel placed in a protected area is really a help to Nature. Certainly the financial giants no longer believe in ESG which are, in short, «green bonds»; those that the European Central Bank is pushing frantically, that Europe, alone in the world, has regulated and that instead in America have raised enormous doubts. Since the beginning of the year, the financial bigwigs have withdrawn **21 billion dollars** from «environment, society and governance» investments.

JP Morgan Asset Management has started to liquidate its green portfolio, but what made the noise was Black Rock's step back when the Texas Permanent School Fund withdrew an \$8.5 billion investment from Larry Fink's fund in April, claiming that it was pushing too hard on alternative energy - which, by the way, are a bargain. Certainly in Europe where everything has been done to push photovoltaic panels and wind turbines built in China. Even more so in Italy where the so-called renewable sources have been largely supported by users bills and taxes. The moment that the EU law on "restoring nature" that takes away land to cultivate comes into force, that script mentioned by Bankitalia that no one wants to talk about, but which puts down in black and white what everyone knows, appears from the drawers of the Anti-Mafia Commission: **green energy is the latest, lucrative business of organized crime**. The mafias (including foreign ones) have transformed wind turbines into exceptional "washing machines" for drug proceeds, they want control of the installation and management of photovoltaic systems because they are a source of easy profit and, of course, an extraordinary blackmail weapon: if you do me wrong I'll leave you in the dark.

It is not some fossil fuel lobbyist who says this, but Enzo Serata, director of the Financial Information Unit (UIF), the anti-money laundering body of the Bank of Italy. On July 31, he presented his report to the Anti-Mafia Commission on: Organized crime

and legal economy. Serata bases his view on the analysis of the "SOS" (suspicious transactions reported to the anti-money laundering unit of the national institute): "During 2023, the presence of dense networks of companies close to criminal organizations emerged that have submitted requests for access to public benefits, including in the PNRR area, the proceeds of which were then partly used in triangulations with intermediaries located in other EU countries destined to China". The report by the director of the Financial Information Unit adds: "The interests of organized crime continue to be found in the renewable energy sector, both in the phases related to the purchase of the areas to be used for the plants and in the design, construction and installation activities of the same. Although widespread throughout the national territory, significant concentrations are present in areas with a high mafia density. Purchases of agricultural land have emerged for the installation of photovoltaic systems with the recognition of high commissions in favor of real estate agents in business ties with names investigated for organized crime. In numerous cases, the selling parties were represented by the same attorney, who, once the price was collected, transferred money to the seller for a significantly lower portion than what was received».

Under pressure from Europe, Mario Draghi, when he was head of government, with the simplification decree of June 2021, modified the environmental code that allowed, in order to implement the PNRR, the installation of photovoltaic panels and wind turbines everywhere even through expropriation of agricultural areas on the simple request from those who wanted to build the plant for renewables. The stop to the panels on cultivated areas then came with the agriculture decree of the minister Francesco Lollobrigida and approved last May. Throughout the country Italy there are protests against the installation of wind turbines and photovoltaic panels. The most sensational now concerns about twenty municipalities in the **Umbria-Marche Apennines** in the area that goes from Gualdo Tadino to the scenic Castelluccio di Norcia, a plain famous for its spring flowering. The project includes 80 wind turbines 200 meters high. To raise them, excavations are being carried out at a depth of 20 meters, in the middle of the Colfiorito regional park and bordering the Sibillini national park, where tons of cement and iron are used.

To activate the construction sites, roads are being built that are deforesting the mountain. Committees have been formed that are organizing continuous demonstrations. The same thing is happening in Maremma, in Val di Cornia, where there are 43 applications for wind and photovoltaic parks. There, farmers have risen up and again in Tuscany, dozens of mega containers are appearing in the fields that

house accumulators to store renewable energy. They have placed them in Cavriglia in the Arezzo area, in Rosignano on the Etruscan Coast. The president of the Region Eugenio Giani (PD) is struggling between not having to displease the Greens who support him and the protests that are mounting. He has only said: «We will evaluate the projects by also listening to the farmers». But Maremma is destined to uproot olive trees and vineyards to make room for the installations: as Europe wants, as the law on the restoration of nature prescribes, as the environmentalist left imposes. And yet a red alert has arrived from the Anti-Mafia Commission. In the report of the president of Arera - the energy authority - sent to Parliament at the end of July, Stefano Besseghini certifies: «System charges have been a significant item in the last 13 years: we have paid around 162 billion, of which around 142 billion euros to cover the incentives currently in place for renewables». Why be surprised that they are coveted by the mafia? The formidable line by the protagonist of *Le mani sulla città*, Edoardo Nottola, explains it: «Money is not a car that you keep still in a garage: it is like a horse, it has to eat every day». But since it feeds on itself, it doesn't care if the fields die.

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