



Italy: Climate killer No. 7

Greenhouse gas emissions: 584 million t (Mt)
Carbon dioxide: 490 million t (Mt)

With this figure, Italy ranks seventh among the G8 countries.

Average per capita emissions: 8.5 t CO₂ per inhabitant

In a global comparison, Italy's per capita emissions are mid-range.

Trend: Disastrous – 12.3 percent growth rate

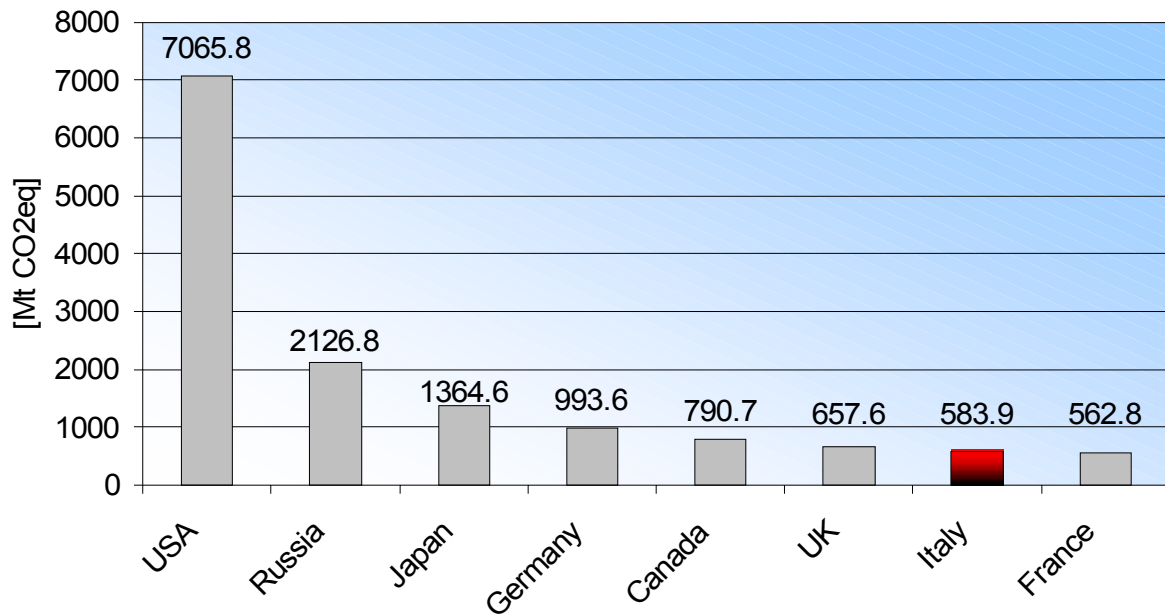
Poor marks indeed: In Italy, greenhouse gas emissions rose by 12.3 percent between 1990 and 2005. The country thus fell far short of its Kyoto target, which is to reduce emissions by 6.5 percent. Sectors bearing particular responsibility for the rise in emissions are the energy sector (+20%) and transport (+26.2%).

Political will: Mediocre

Italy ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. In the five years under Berlusconi, climate protection was not an issue.

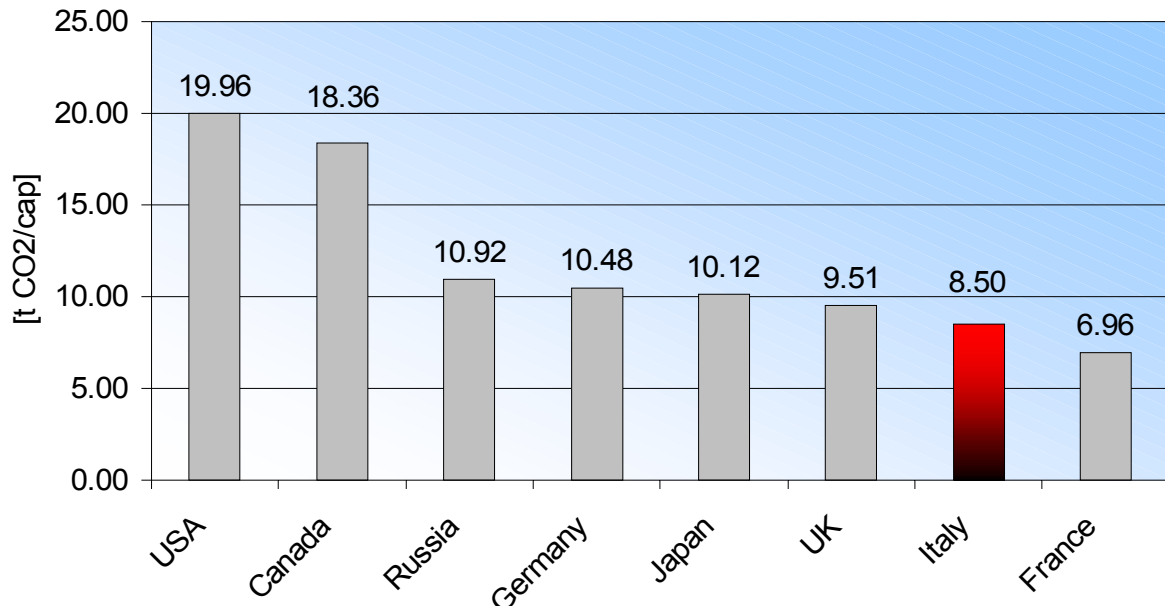
Now that Italy is itself becoming concerned about the impacts of climate change (fears that characteristic agricultural products "Made in Italy" may fall victim to shifting climatic zones, that Italian beaches may be submerged, that extreme weather events will devastate tourism regions ever more often and that the south of the country will become a desert) politicians are devoting more attention to the issue. In the meantime, the new Italian environment minister Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio has declared that it is difficult but still feasible for Italy to meet its Kyoto commitments.

GHG emissions of the G8 countries 2005



Source: Ziesing, Hans-Joachim: Trotz Klimaschutzabkommen: Weltweit steigende CO₂-Emissionen, DIW Berlin Wochenbericht 35/2006.

per-capita CO₂ emissions of the G8 countries 2005



Source: own calculation, from Ziesing, Hans-Joachim: Trotz Klimaschutzabkommen: Weltweit steigende CO₂-Emissionen, DIW Berlin Wochenbericht 35/2006 und World Development Report 2006, Weltbank