

In terms of bilateral aid, the Italians publish a list of top priority countries and second priority countries on a yearly basis. This list provides Italian exporters with a clear indication of where bilateral support will be allocated. Indeed, 43.8% of all grants and loans have gone to the eighteen countries in the top priority list in 1988.

While there are budgetary concerns, the Italian soft loan program is likely to continue at its current level. It appears that only a change of rules within the Consensus could alter that direction.