

Closing Workshop

UK – ITALY CLEAN GROWTH DIALOGUES**4 March 2026****10:15 - 12:30**

Venue:

Residence of the British Ambassador to Italy
Villa Wolkonsky
Piazza di Villa Wolkonsky, 1
Rome

Working language: English

The UK-Italy Clean Growth Dialogues represent a strategic platform for bilateral cooperation on energy transition. As two major European economies navigating the complexities of achieving net zero, the United Kingdom and Italy share common challenges, complementary strengths, and significant opportunities for collaboration.

This workshop brings together high-level government representatives, civil society organisations and academic experts to identify concrete pathways towards a sustainable energy future.

The event serves as a culmination of a series of dialogues carried out by the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) with the support of the British Embassy in Rome.

PROGRAMME

10:15 – 10:30	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE
10:30 – 10:35	WELCOME REMARKS ALISON KERR Acting Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Rome
10:35-10:50	SETTING THE SCENE MARGHERITA BIANCHI Head, Energy, Climate and Resources Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali-IAI
10:50 – 11:15	KEYNOTE SPEECHES CHRIS STARK Head of UK Mission Control for Clean Power, UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero CARLO BARDINI Coordinator of International and European Activities, Energy Department, Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security OPEN DISCUSSION with all participants Chair PIER PAOLO RAIMONDI Senior Researcher, Energy, Climate and Resources Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali-IAI
12:15	END OF THE WORKSHOP
12:30	LIGHT LUNCH

This is an executive summary of a paper on Italy/EU - UK clean-tech cooperation which IAI will publish after this workshop. Views are those of the authors alone, Margherita Bianchi and Pier Paolo Raimondi (IAI), building on discussions during two roundtables held in Rome in December 2025 and January 2026. This project has been carried out by IAI with the support of the British Embassy in Rome.

Deeper & Cleaner Cooperation

The UK, Italy and the EU share aligned climate ambitions, common industrial interests, and energy security risks. In a more contested geopolitical environment, closer cooperation on clean energy represents a natural area for deeper collaboration, reducing friction for business and strengthening resilience. UK–Italy/EU cooperation should prioritise a small number of deliverable workstreams with clear economic and security pay offs, to accelerate the energy transition:

1. **Electricity market integration** - work towards more efficient cross border trading and system operation, including via harmonisation of grid codes and network standards, and better coordinated interconnection. This would support security of supply and help integrate renewables across the wider European system, creating a more balanced and resilient continental energy system (balancing wind rich northern supply with Mediterranean solar and wind)
2. **ETS linking and CBAM alignment** - accelerate technical work to link the UK and EU emissions trading schemes. Ancillary areas for better market integration include harmonisation of: product standards and certification for clean technologies; sustainability and due diligence criteria for clean technology supply chains, reporting and disclosure frameworks for the carbon content of goods
3. **Cross border CCUS frameworks** – develop compatible rules for CO₂ transport and storage across borders to unlock investment in shared infrastructure and enable projects to scale up.

Industrial cooperation and finance: remove avoidable barriers. Both sides should ensure industrial strategies (procurement, standards and local content requirements) do not inadvertently create market barriers excluding each other's companies. Shared principles on clean tech subsidies and investment screening would reduce divergence and strengthen shared leverage with third country producers, including China. To help offset fiscal constraints, the UK and EU could pursue targeted fiscal cooperation on green finance instruments and blended finance vehicles for priority infrastructure (e.g., mutual eligibility for green instruments and guarantees; joint blended finance vehicles for North Sea hybrid

projects). The EU Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034) is a key opportunity to structure UK access to relevant programmes where this adds value for both sides.

Critical minerals: Deeper cooperation on critical raw materials is instrumental to the above goals. The UK and Italy, together with the EU, should focus on:

- a. *Standards and due diligence* align traceability and due diligence standards to make reporting interoperable;
- b. *Diplomacy and development finance* coordinate demand aggregation and engagement with priority partners in Africa and Latin America to avoid competitive undercutting and to increase leverage for transparent, mutually beneficial supply agreements; and
- c. *Synergies via Member State experience* Italy and the UK could explore joint activities building on Italy's Africa engagement (i.e. the Mattei Plan), to develop a shared approach and build fair and sustainable supply chains partnerships.

To progress these recommendations, structured mechanisms for coordination, dialogue, and the identification of regulatory barriers are essential – building on the strong partnership between the UK and Italy.