

Ance Liguria: 78% of Italian houses are exposed to hydrogeological and seismic risk

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TOPSHOT – Civilians look for survivors under the rubble of collapsed buildings in Kahramanmaras, close to the quake’s epicentre, the day after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the country’s southeast, on February 7, 2023. – Rescuers in Turkey and Syria braved frigid weather, aftershocks and collapsing buildings, as they dug for survivors buried by an earthquake that killed more than 5,000 people. Some of the heaviest devastation occurred near the quake’s epicenter between Kahramanmaras and Gaziantep, a city of two million where entire blocks now lie in ruins under gathering snow. (Photo by Adem ALTAN / AFP)

“The images of the immense tragedy that struck Turkey and Syria would suggest silence. But it is precisely in moments like these that it is instead necessary to raise one’s voice and denounce the virtual reality in which the European institutions seem to navigate, today engaged in the green campaign for homes and dissociated from any risk factor that does not fall within their goal of the politically correct or trendy: and the reality for Italy, even in areas with the highest seismic risk, is that of almost all homes totally exposed to earthquake danger”. The complaint comes from Emanuele Ferraloro, president of ANCE Liguria who, in emphasizing how Japan, where earthquakes are endemic, took steps in time to define and make anti-seismic procedures mandatory for all new buildings, underlines how Europe “from a on the one hand, travel in perpetual delay on real needs, on the other, falling in love and various measures of a global nature which are incompatible with the reality of the real estate assets of individual states, refusing a priori to evaluate the diversity, even in seismic risk, which exists in the continent of Europe”. “Equating the historic centers of an Italy that is history – says Ferraloro – with the large urban agglomerations of Northern Europe built in the sixties and seventies and often owned by financial institutions, does not only mean ignoring reality, but also suffering from a chronic and perhaps malicious dissociation: in Italy 70% of homes are included in energy efficiency classes F and G, but this is nothing: 78% of Italian homes, according to a recent research by the Cnr, are built in areas at risk hydrogeological or seismic. Between 2011 and 2021 the damage suffered by this real estate heritage amounted to over 52 billion with a very heavy toll of human lives. Maybe it’s time to make Brussels understand that the priorities for our country are different from those of northern European

countries and to commit everyone to ensure that at least new buildings are subject to real prevention regulations. Luckily there are regional administrations in Italy that prefer reality baths to ideological hangovers and, with great pragmatism, face problems on the ground, constructing solutions to the problem of stranded tax credits. The measures recently launched by the Piedmont Region, Sardinia, by the province of Treviso, currently being defined by the Abruzzo Region, restore hope to the construction sector and to the companies that have believed and continue to believe in energy efficiency and seismic upgrading of buildings. We will also propose to the Liguria Region to adopt the measures already approved by Sardinia and Piedmont and we are confident that we will find an adequate hearing”.