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Italy needs new energy plan

Italy's government has been asked for a new national energy plan to reduce the country's 60% reliance on natural gas and reconsider the

€9 billion per annum cost of renewable energy incentives.

With Italy's energy bill increasing by 18.4% to a record high of €63 billion in 2011, the chairman of Assocarboni (the Italian coal industry association), Andrea Clavarino,

has called for the new government to show an appreciation for the importance of energy policies as a driver for the economic revival of the country as the present situation is clearly unsustainable, undermining the competitiveness of the Italian manufacturing industry.

According to Assocarboni, coal still only has a marginal share in the Italian electricity generation mix at

12% compared to an average of 33% in Europe and a global figure of 41%. Clavarino pointed out the not only the financial benefit of a shift to energy generation by coal but also the strides forward made by Italian operators in new clean coal technologies and the environmentally sustainable use of coal. For these reasons Clavarino urged the government to boost the role of coal in the national energy mix".