

**Rodolfo De Benedetti's speech at the presentation of the 2009 "Italian liberalization index" by the Bruno Leoni Institute (Milan, 29 May 2009)**

Abstract (source [www.brunoleoni.it](http://www.brunoleoni.it))

*"In Italy the culture of liberalization is still very low. In Italy we haven't liberalized in the name of a free market but only because of external ties".*

Rodolfo De Benedetti (CEO, CIR Group) said: *"In sectors such as energy, the State is both regulator and shareholder. In these cases, unfortunately, the interests of the shareholder prevail to the detriment of customers and fixed rules. I would like to ask a provocative question: Why doesn't the State leave regulated businesses once and for all? Why doesn't it limit itself to drafting good rules, leaving scope to the initiative of private entrepreneurs?"*.

De Benedetti also stated that *"in Italy it is necessary to slash bankruptcy costs. Starting up a new company is incredibly difficult. I realize that talking about flexibility today could be politically risky, but why don't we experiment with new and more flexible kinds of employment, at least for new companies and new jobs being created?"*. De Benedetti also added that *"in order to find resources to fight the crisis, we need to start privatizing again"*.

Rodolfo De Benedetti's full speech from the website of Radio Radicale:  
<http://www.radioradicale.it/scheda/280093/liberalizzazioni-in-crisi-presentazione-dellindice-delle-liberalizzazioni-2009>