

- Early life and career: Graduates
- in law from University of Florence.
  Joins *Italian People's Party (PPI)*in 1996, becoming its Provincial
  Secretary in 1999. Elected President
  of province of Florence in 2004
- 2009: Becomes Mayor of Florence as member of centre-left Democratic Party (PD). Dubbed "rottamatore" demolition man by Italian media for his call to scrap existing political establishment
- Dec 2012: Loses PD leadership race to *Pier Luigi Bersani*. Elected party leader in Dec 2013 following Bersani's resignation
- Feb 2014: Poised to become Italy's youngest postwar leader after winning party vote to replace *Enrico Letta* at head of ruling coalition

Picture: Associated Press © GRAPHIC NEWS