

Pledges made in Italy's election campaign



Silvio Berlusconi



Romano Prodi

BUSINESS: Cut 90% labour tax paid by employers by 3% over next three years

- More privatisation of state assets
- Crackdown on tax evasion
- **Abolish unpopular property tax on first homes**



- Cut labour tax by 5% in first year
- Reintroduce inheritance tax for very rich – abolished by Berlusconi in 2001

- Crackdown on tax evasion
- **Introduce loan programmes for purchase of first homes**

JOB AND PENSIONS: Create 1.5m new jobs over five years

- Free TV licences and public transport for elderly
- **Raise minimum pension from €550 to €800/month**



- Reduce incentives for firms to hire using short-term contracts
- Scrap government reform which raises retirement age from 57 to 60
- **Credits of €2,500 a year for children under three**

JUSTICE: 10,000 more police



- **Toughen conflict of interest law**

INFRASTRUCTURE: Launch development bank to help Italy's impoverished south

- **Proceed with €4.6bn Messina bridge to link Sicily to mainland**



- Incentives to attract investment in southern Italy
- Support controversial high-speed rail link beneath Alps
- **Scrap Messina bridge project**