

PRESS RELEASE

Energy: set-up of the online portal to compare the best electricity and gas offer of the market

the new PLACET offers for each individual supplier will be fully comparable within 5 months, and then all other offers for subsequent phases

Milan, 2 February 2018 – Within a few months, families and small businesses will be able to start searching online for the electricity and gas supply that suits their needs better through the comparison portal independent from the suppliers, set up by the Integrated Information System Operator (SII) based on the Authority's provisions. ARERA (The Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment) has in fact established the criteria to start the setting up of the web portal, provided for by the Law on Competition (Italian Law No. 124 of 2017 – *legge concorrenza*), where all the contractual offers of the energy markets must be published. Therefore, all offers addressed to the generality of customers on the new Portal will have to be registered and comparable. The new online comparison tool, which will ensure the comparability of commercial offers available to customers in a simple and comprehensive manner, will also become a means of more knowledge available to the customer in view of the expiry of the standard offer market expected from 1 July 2019. Its full implementation will be realized in subsequent phases: by 1 July 2018 it will be online with the PLACET (free price offers under uniform contractual conditions) offers, and then, by the end of 2018, it will include all electricity and gas offers.

Therefore, within the deadlines provided by the Law on Competition, resolution 51/2018/R/com has defined the general criteria for the set-up of the Portal, the principles and technical characteristics, and the methods for calculating the estimate of the annual expenditure referred to the published offers that must be implemented by the SII Operator. In addition, the resolution includes notes related to the consultation document 763/2017/R/com and the results of the meetings of the Portal's technical committee (which includes representatives of consumers, companies, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Antitrust Authority), as required by the Competition Law.

In detail, in the first phase (within 5 months from the provision) the portal will only compare the PLACET offers, that is the offers introduced by the Authority (with resolution 555/2017/R/com) that all the suppliers will have to give, with pre-established and uniform contractual conditions for all the users, but at prices freely established by the supplier, according to a clear and easy to understand structure and therefore simple to compare with each other. In the second phase (to be carried out within 2 months from the completion of the first phase) the offers already included in *Trova Offerte* [Offer Finder] option will be added, which was the Authority's former online comparison tool, to which suppliers currently, voluntarily, are in and which will subsequently no longer be operational. Finally, in the third phase (within the following 3 months), all the other electricity and natural gas offers aimed at the generality of customers (advertised or spread on the vendors' websites, at their front desks on all the other websites and the main media with a minimum of regional coverage) will be gathered.

The user, who can connect to the Portal with any device (smartphone, tablet or PC) will be able to choose the type of supply, electricity, gas or dual fuel, by indicating his/her delivery profile (even

through a simulator that will allow an estimate to be made) and the kind of offer desired - at fixed or variable prices. He/she can easily view all available offers, with discounts, sorted and filtered according to their preferences. For assistance, he/she can contact by telephone the Authority's Consumer Help Desk, which will offer a free support service.

Finally, among the Portal's new features, there is the possibility for all small customers, including non-domestic customers (who currently have a limited number of comparability tools), and for condominiums in the case of gas supplies, to make comparisons. In the future, there will also be gradual changes that will allow further services to be offered and adapt the site in order to make it more user-oriented. For example, through interaction with the SII, the Portal will be able to calculate the expenses associated with offers displayed by the user, based on his/her actual historical consumption profile. Over time, the Portal could also host offers for prosumers (for example, who owns a photovoltaic panel, a small wind turbine or a microgeneration device), thus completing the range of available offers.

Resolution 51/2018/R/com is available on the website www.arera.it