

## **GdF-ARERA: 260 million euros from 2018 inspections on energy, water and gas**

### *From monitoring tariff reductions for the benefit of customers*

Milan, 28 March 2019 - Over 260 million euros of costs has been disputed by the *Guardia di Finanza* (The Italian Financial Police) during inspections on water, electricity and gas companies for charges covered by the tariff but not due, a significant part of which has already been returned to customers through tariff reductions.

These are the main results of the surveillance activities jointly undertaken in 2018 by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment (ARERA) and by the Special Departments of the *Guardia di Finanza* in 2018. These results have been presented today during the customary annual meeting between the two institutions.

"Defining the rules to protect customers and improve competition is as important as checking that the rules are correctly applied. The consolidated collaboration between ARERA and the *Guardia di Finanza* has also seen widespread and constant action in 2018 that, besides being a guarantee for consumers, contributes to the protection of the energy and environmental balances of our country" said the President of ARERA, **Stefano Besseghini**.

The joint activity - which also includes eight reports to the judicial authority for alleged offences, in addition to the tariff issues linked to investments not made or incentives not owed - has on several occasions allowed security and the proper quality of service to be restored both in the gas and electricity sectors.

Cases recorded in 2018 include the lack of 'odorisation' of gas networks, non-compliance with rules governing the emergency service in the event of reports and the need for revision of the safety procedures of several small electricity distribution companies.

Thanks to the checks made, 12 million euros have also been recovered from companies that had not paid the contribution for the operation of the Authority in the years 2013-2015.

In 2019 the programme maintains surveillance activities in the areas seen to be the most critical in recent experience, whilst at the same time providing for the introduction of new areas of surveillance and an overall increase in operations.

In particular, there is a widening of checks in the field of investments and functional and accounting unbundling for the purposes of the correct application of the related directives and the regular accounting of investments. Among the new developments: surveys will be carried out on the verification of the provisions of gas settlement (aimed at ensuring the efficient provision of balancing and transport services), the verification of compliance with the provisions relating to the quality of water services, as well as checks on energy-intensive companies benefitting from tariff reductions with reference to the general system charges.