

PRESS RELEASE

Regulation on municipal waste in Europe ARERA on the front line

Discussions at the Florence School of Regulation between regulatory authorities, institutions, academics and stakeholders

Milan, 2 July 2020 - Introducing the principles of regulation in the European municipal waste sector to overcome the challenges of the circular economy and coordinate an increasingly important industrial sector. This is the main topic that regulators, institutions, academics and other stakeholders discussed during the webinar - promoted by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA) with the Florence School of Regulation - *'Municipal Waste Regulation in Europe: paving the road to address upcoming challenges'*.

European countries have different methods and results in the management and regulation of waste. Encouraging dialogue, spreading best practices and promoting the debate on regulation are the basis of the initiative to establish a network of European regulators, promoted by ARERA together with regulators from other European countries.

The analysis and promotion of the best experiences is a particularly important challenge for Italy, which, with the adoption of the Waste Tariff Method, has begun to regulate this complex and fragmented industrial system, with the aim of creating homogeneity among the different areas of the country in terms of quality of service and system efficiency.

“It is necessary to consider the importance of the economic dimension of municipal waste in order to make coherent and effective decisions. Transparency of costs, support for recycling, reduction of the use of landfills and closure of the cycle in each territory are the objectives of regulation,” said **Gianni Castelli**, member of the ARERA Board, at the opening of the seminar.

For **Mattia Pellegrini**, head of the ‘Waste management and secondary material’ unit at the Environment Directorate of the European Commission, who illustrated the Commission's priorities and the action plan approved last March: “Europe and its states are ready to implement new measures for a truly circular economy.”

On the same line, **Walter Ganapini**, professor and researcher and honorary member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency. In emphasising the importance of research in the industrial sector and the efforts made by ARERA to outline regulation that encourages investment, he explained “We have to count on the best technologies available, on the one hand, and, on the other, invite citizens to play an active role, providing them with transparency to satisfy their right to know what they are paying for.”