

PRESS RELEASE

ARERA, the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy and Environment, celebrates its 25th anniversary

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Milan, 13 November 2020 - ARERA, the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment, celebrates its 25th anniversary. On 14 November 1995, Law 481 was approved, which established in Italy the independent regulatory authorities of public utility services.

Back in 1992, the government laid the first stones of the new liberalized markets, with the privatization of large state companies. This path needed building and support, which is why, based on other international experiences, there was the need to create independent authorities to supervise the new competitive structures, which were also capable of building their foundations. Therefore, during the twelfth legislature, the principle was established that the regulatory bodies should be created before the privatization of public enterprises.

Today ARERA, in its fourth term, with over 1,180 meetings of the Board and around 11,260 acts approved, celebrates its 25th anniversary. The Authority is entrusted with the task of guaranteeing the protection of end customers and promotion of competition of important public utility services, ensuring their usability and homogeneous distribution throughout the national territory, defining a certain, transparent tariff system based on predefined criteria, promoting the protection of the interests of users and consumers. These functions are performed by harmonizing the economic and financial objectives of the operators with the general social objectives and those of environmental protection and efficient use of resources.

These challenging objectives have developed over the years in relation with the rapid evolution of the first sectors of regulation, electricity and gas (with the first name Aeeg), to which in 2012 were added regulation of the integrated water system (Aeegsi), district heating and, finally, in late 2017, the waste sector (ARERA). ARERA's regulation has increasingly related to the European dimension, defined by the various Community Directives that have further legitimized its role and functions.

Twenty-five years after its foundation, the Authority is now renewing its commitment to support consumers and operators, regulating increasingly interconnected sectors, with a view to real and concrete sustainability in the growth of public utility services.

This anniversary will be highlighted by a "25th edition" of the ARERA logo, which will appear in all areas of communication and will accompany the Authority's ordinary and extraordinary activities until 14 November 2021.

For the President of ARERA, **Stefano Besseghini**: "The extension of the Authority's responsibilities in these 25 years, supported by the quality of its personnel, to regulate all public services that enter directly into people's homes, is symbolic of the country's progress. The goal of guaranteeing consumer rights and the stability of industrial systems, in ensuring access to electricity, gas, water and waste management, in a homogeneous way in all areas of the country, is a challenge that is still very relevant today. This challenge takes on greater importance now that the European Union is focusing as never before on the environment and energy."