



PRESS RELEASE

## **GdF-ARERA: Joint controls in 2021 lead to the recovery of Euro 18.2 million, mainly in Energy**

*Inversion of the trend on amounts recovered after the Covid emergency year.  
Focus on Sogin and nuclear repository, proper aid to energy-intensive users, and consumer protection in view of 'end of standard offer service'. Ensured oversight on security of supply.  
Controls on water sector commercial quality to start in 2022*

Rome, 11 May 2022 - Following the joint controls between the *Guardia di Finanza* and ARERA in 2021, after a slowdown due to Covid, the amount contested for violations and evasion by companies is back up to **Euro 18.2 million, strengthening documentary checks** along with on-site inspections. In particular, the disputes concerned price discounts for energy-intensive companies and **compliance with consumer protection rules by energy and gas sellers**, also in view of the end of the standard offer service. These are the main findings that emerged during the meeting held today in Rome at the Authority's offices between the *Guardia di Finanza*, represented by Gen. C.A. Umberto Sirico and ARERA's board. Launched in 2003, the agreement provides essential support for the Authority's control activities, both in terms of resources and economic and financial expertise.

Overall, amounts for over Euro 18 million were recovered or claimed from companies, the majority of which regarded costs to be recognised in various forms through the tariff. Instead, the amounts relating to unpaid operating fees of the Authority amounted to just under Euro 2 million.

With regard to electricity and gas, critical issues were mainly reported for **bills (timing, complaints), publication and fairness requirements for sellers' websites, and determination of the fuel mix** (i.e. the average composition of clean and fossil sources used to produce the electricity sold to customers). **On the other hand, positive feedback was received in the preparation of the comparability sheets to be provided during contract signing and in the publication of bids on ARERA's "Portale Offerte"**.

There was also a focus on **tariff breaks granted to energy-intensive companies** and on the accuracy of information submitted to the Authority Operators Registry.

The joint checks carried out in 2021 with the *Guardia di Finanza* include those on the **Sogin inquiry**, which will close on 31 July 2022, on the recognition of costs incurred for the **National Repository for radioactive waste and Technology Park**, and on the expenses for definition and publication of the **CNAPI**, the National Charter of Potentially Eligible Areas.

**The measures for 2022** will be tightened as well. Special attention will be paid to **inspections** to verify the costs declared by companies for tariff recognition purposes, with specific tightening on the accuracy of figures provided to the CSEA (Energy and Environmental Services Fund) in application of the **mechanism of reinstatement of bad debts due to non-collection of general charges of the**

**electric system.** A large portion of the new documentary checks will be devoted to verifying a sample of gas distribution/transportation and electricity distribution companies with regard to **accounting unbundling and investments declared by the companies** to the Authority. And the **monitoring of security of supply** has always been guaranteed, even during the Covid emergency, an area that continues to record **high rates of non-compliance** by companies, particularly gas.

Lastly, the **first inspections** are planned **for the water sector, with respect to the commercial quality parameters** declared, affecting tariffs and impacting the recognition of possible incentives or penalties.