

## **NEWSLETTER OF GME - The new issue is published**

Rome 16 May 2016 – The new issue of the newsletter of Gestore dei Mercati Energetici (Gme) is online and can be downloaded from the website www.mercatoelettrico.org.

The newsletter starts with a speech by Claudia Checchi of REF-E on the problems and the initial steps for the reform of the gas distribution concessions. "The high complexity of the subject and the presence of critical elements that the regulatory framework in its complexity failed to resolve led to a very low level of consensus and a systematic delay by the contracting authorities in the publication of notices - admitted Checchi -. After many requests from the participants involved and given an almost paradoxical situation - in late December only 15 notices, many of them incomplete, had been issued against 50 notices went to maturity - the legislator intervened again putting off the originally planned deadlines for about one year." The process stop was detected by the Energy Authority as well as the Antitrust Authority that have reported the various problems hindering the full implementation of the reform to the Government and Parliament.

Among this, the expert of REF-E reminded, "the abolition of penalties for non-compliance with deadlines for the publication of the notice, which so far had shown to be the only tool able to actually stimulate the execution of the tenders." And this could make it "very likely a failure to comply with even the new terms for the publication of notices set by law." Also, "both Authorities propose to encourage participation in tenders through the elimination of restrictions on investment in ATI", pointed out Checchi adding that the Regulatory Authority would consider useful "even an overhaul of deadlines for the publication of notices in order to avoid the focus on too many tenders in reduced periods of time and, to this end, suggests to redistribute at least 40 ATEMs, divided into two groups, in the first half of 2018."

Finally, in terms of enhancement of networks, "the idea - said the analyst of REF-E - is to apply from the first time that what is implemented only at regime, that is, that the reimbursement to outgoing managers is equal to the value of the net invested capital



recognized for tariff purposes, the so-called RAB." A third aspect concerns then the network fractions held directly by the municipalities, even if operated by independent participants. "The networks for transporting gas in public ownership, as inalienable assets albeit from a specific target constraint to public use, shall be transferable to private entities and the Ministry of Economic Development has indicated its tender areas as the most appropriate venue. This could be - concluded Cecchi - a chance to make order in a regime that involves many cases that are also differentiated of coexistence between public and private property management, thus allowing municipalities to realize their investments in times when the methane was a target of public interest, which today can be considered generally realized and where direct intervention is no longer justified." The new issue of the newsletter comes with the usual technical commentaries on the markets and the electricity and national and European environmental exchanges, the section devoted to the analysis of the trends of the Italian gas market and the analysis section on trends in Europe, which delves into the trends of the main European commodity markets.

GME's new publication also reports, as customary, the summary data of the electricity market for the month of April 2016.

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