



Italy to launch spot carbon emissions market in April

Italy will launch its emissions trading scheme on 2nd April, the Economic Development and Environmental Ministries announced on Wednesday.

In line with the European Commission's Directive 2003/87/EC, GME, which currently manages the country's Green Certificates Market, the Energy Efficiency Certificates (White Certificates) and the bourse, Ipx, will offer a trading platform for spot delivery of emission units with a minimum lot of 500 units.

The market operator will offer, "a system of fees that is among the most competitive in Europe", a statement from the Economic Development Ministry read. There will be no yearly fixed fee for the first year, while a payment of EUR 2,500 will be charged for subsequent years. There will also be a variable fee of EUR 0.0025 per emission unit traded.

The market will be easy to use and will encourage the participation of small and medium enterprises, the statement explained. "GME has set up a trading venue based on criteria of neutrality, transparency, objectivity and

competition between operators," the statement added.

Market sessions will take place daily between 09.00 and 16:00 (local time) on all working days. Purchases will be totally guaranteed through an interest-bearing cash deposit, while the delivery of the purchased emission units will be safeguarded by the initial transfer of emission units to GME's holding account.

Interested parties must have an emission unit holding account in one of the European registries and sign a market participation application and a market participation agreement. For those wishing to sell emission units on the Market, they will be requested to transfer the tradable units to GME's holding account, which the latter has established with the Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services, APAT.

GME also plans to launch a forwards market on Ipx from the beginning of April, although the operator was unable to confirm whether the project was still on schedule.