



PRESS RELEASE

GME'S NEWSLETTER: NEW FORMAT AND NEW CONTENT

GME's Newsletter has been renewed. Two years after its inception, the newsletter comes with a new format and a wider choice of topics, including those concerning the gas sector.

The novelties have been introduced in connection with the enlarged mission of GME, which has been vested with the exclusive responsibility to manage the natural gas exchange under the Italian Development Law (Law no. 99/09). Indeed, under the Decree of the Minister of Economic Development of 18 March 2010, GME will manage the regulated market for the trading of gas quantities through a step-by-step approach. In Stage 1, beginning on 10 May 2010, quotas of gas imported from non-EU countries (together with other voluntary bids/offers) will be traded in the regulated market. In Stage 2, also the quantities of gas produced in Italy and reserved for the State will be sold in the same market.

Greater coverage of gas issues will be found in the section of the newsletter dedicated to the "technical insights". Support in this regard will be given by REF and RIE, two major institutes of analysis of the energy sector. .

The newsletter also comes with a "focus" section, dealing with topical issues of the energy sector, namely those of more interest to GME's stakeholders.

In addition to the usual reports on the electricity market and on national and European environmental markets, the newsletter also features a new section with the analysis of Italian gas market trends: each month, this section will provide the main data of natural gas consumption, supply and prices in our country.

Other sections of the newsletter have being renewed: the one with European trends will shed more light on the trends of the main European commodity markets, while the one with legislative developments will be extended to the gas sector.

Gestore del Mercato Elettrico SpA

Socio unico ex art. 5 D.Lgs 79/99 Gestore dei Servizi Elettrici - GSE Spa

Sede Legale – V.le M. Pilsudski, 92 - 00197 Roma

Reg. Imprese di Roma, P.IVA e C.F. n. 06208031002

R.E.A. di Roma n. 953866

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This issue of the newsletter opens with an interview with **Giovanni Lelli**, Commissioner of “Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l’energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile” (Italian national agency for new technologies, energy and sustainable economic development – ENEA), who outlines ENEA’s tasks and roles in terms of energy efficiency. To respond to the targets of the European 20-20-20 strategy, ENEA was entrusted with yearly assessments of the status of national energy savings and efficiency. The Commissioner explains that a *first report will be submitted to the Ministry of Economic Development within June 2010, although a preliminary assessment indicates that the savings achieved in the residential sector at the end of 2009 were equal to over 40,000 GWh*. Another area where ENEA plays a key role is Italy’s return to the nuclear technology: *the new national policy* – points out Lelli – *is based on diversification of the energy mix, so as to reduce dependence on energy imports, carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and energy costs*. From this standpoint – adds ENEA’s Commissioner – *the development of the nuclear technology may, in the medium-long term, ensure the coverage of Italy’s growing energy demand*. Hence – concludes Lelli – *energy efficiency and nuclear energy are not opposed to each other, but both contribute to sustainable development prospects*. As has become customary, GME’s new publication reports the **summary data of the electricity market for the month of March**.

In the new issue of the newsletter (in the “insights” section), **Stefano Clò** from RIE deals with the impact of the crisis on the national energy and emission scenario. In the opinion of Clò, *the worst recession of the post-war period leads us to estimate a sharp drop in national emissions*. Indeed, the latest official data published by the European Environment Agency – explains the expert – *suggest a decrease of national emissions in 2009 below the threshold of 500 million tonnes, down by over 50 million tonnes from 2007*. Nevertheless – stresses Clò – *while the plunge in the 2009 emissions was caused above all by the contraction of generation and consumption, emissions in the first months of 2010 have been diminishing in spite of the first signals of economic*



recovery. In conclusion – states Clò – this is indicative of a switch towards lower-carbon fuels.

The “insights” section also comes with a contribution by **Laura Vecchi** and **Rossella Baselice** – Ministry of Economic Development, Directorate-General of nuclear energy, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, Division of electricity markets and systems – on the roadmap towards the reform of the electricity market. The reform, which was defined in a Decree of the Minister of Economic Development issued in the spring of 2009 (Ministerial Decree of 29 April 2009), concludes a wide activity of reflection (started at the end of 2007 and continued in 2008) on the forms of evolution of the electricity market, which took off in 2004.

The new issue also reports the press release with which GME communicated the changes made to the guarantee system of its Forward Electricity Market (MTE).

The changes made by Gestore dei Mercati Energetici (GME) to the guarantee system for participation in its Forward Electricity Market (MTE) have entered into force on 9 April. The changes are the result of debates held at the Ministry of Economic Development with Confindustria and AEEG. The goal of this work was to facilitate the purchase and sale of forward electricity, by reducing the guarantees needed to participate in the market, while promoting trades in the MTE regulated market and enhancing liquidity to the benefit of Market Participants and final customers.

Gestore dei Mercati Energetici S.p.A.
Relazioni Istituzionali e Comunicazione
Tel. +39 06 8012 4522
Fax. +39 06 8012 4519
relazioni.istituzionali@mercatoelettrico.org
www.mercatoelettrico.org