

## **GME'S NEWSLETTER – Issue no. 190 now online**

Rome, 14 March 2025 – The new issue of the newsletter of *Gestore dei Mercati Energetici* (GME) is now available at <https://www.mercatoelettrico.org>.

The newsletter opens with an article by Chiara Proietti Silvestri, from *Ricerche Industriali Energetiche* (RIE), about energy poverty in Italy and Europe. Proietti Silvestri stresses that, *although the energy crisis – in the proportions that it reached in 2022 as a result of the Russian–Ukrainian war – appears to have been overcome, it remains a persistent challenge for many families in Italy and across Europe. The latest estimates indicate that, within the European Union, the percentage of people unable to afford heating for their homes grew by 50% between 2019 and 2023, rising from 31 to nearly 48 million individuals. Although energy prices have decreased with respect to the peaks reached at the height of the crisis, energy bills remain structurally higher than before, while the support of national governments has waned after the emergency stage. In Italy, too, the increase in the cost of living has left many families vulnerable. According to a recent IPSOS survey, 8 out of 10 Italians are concerned about the mounting costs of electricity and gas, and many believe that energy poverty will worsen in the future. Proietti Silvestri points out that, despite this, only 1 out of 5 Italians has taken steps to enhance energy efficiency. This underscores the need to raise awareness among families of the need for adopting behaviours and practices based on sustainable use of energy resources. Thus, the data on energy poverty in Europe highlights the need for implementing effective policies to ensure access to affordable energy and improve energy efficiency in homes, thereby reducing the number of families unable to heat their living spaces. In the opinion of Proietti Silvestri, it is also necessary to put in place a larger number of information and awareness initiatives targeted at vulnerable groups, so as to encourage behavioural changes aimed at efficiency.*

*Nevertheless, achieving a really structural change requires addressing the root causes of energy poverty. A comprehensive approach that includes improving energy efficiency in buildings, using more sustainable technologies, and expanding access to renewable energy sources can help alleviate energy poverty. However, these efforts must be combined with inclusive housing policies to ensure decent and safe homes for all. Rising housing costs and inefficient buildings increase the financial burden on vulnerable families and limit their access to essential energy services. Proietti Silvestri concludes by emphasising the importance of coordinated long-term measures to tackle the structural causes of the social inequalities that underlie both phenomena.*

This issue of the newsletter comes with the usual technical commentaries about European and national power exchanges and environmental markets, a section focused on the analysis of Italian gas market trends, and a section with insights into the trends of the main European commodity markets.

As has become customary, the publication also reports the summary data of the Electricity Market for February 2025.

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