

PRESS RELEASE

Energy: “retail” procedures underway to enforce the Law on Competition

Focus on the web portal to compare electricity and gas offers, buying groups, list of electricity suppliers and new impetus to the tools put in place by the Authority

Milan, 30th August 2017 - Three procedures have been started for the implementation of the interventions set out in the "Annual Law on Market and Competition " (no. 124/2017) which came into force yesterday, concerning the further development of the retail market and the termination, in July 2019, of standard offers for households and small businesses in the electricity and gas sectors. With Resolution no. 610/2017/R/com, approved by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity Gas and Water, procedures have been launched for the implementation of the interventions set out by the law for the concerned sectors.

In particular, for the law's objectives to be achieved within the set time, a first procedure will be started for the implementation by the Single Buyer (AU, i.e., the integrated water service operator - Integrated Computer System) of a web portal for the collection and publication of the offers on the market. This will allow households and small businesses to compare and choose the electricity or gas supply offers that best suits their needs.

Again in terms of transparency and comparability of offers, a second procedure will identify the guidelines for advertising electricity and gas offers for buying groups and the creating of IT platforms that facilitate the aggregation of small consumers. Finally, a third procedure will lead to the definition of criteria, methods, as well as technical, financial and reputational requirements for suppliers to be included in the Electricity Suppliers List, which will be the subject of a decree to be issued by the Ministry of Economic Development and will be a necessary requirement for carrying out sales activity to customers.

These measures are embedded in a path already undertaken by the Authority through measures aimed at improving the empowerment of small customers, for raising their awareness of their right to choose their electricity or gas supplier, also considering that as of 1st July 2019 the standard offer price will be exceeded.

From January 2018, the standard offer *PLACET* (Italian acronym of *Prezzo Libero A Condizioni Equiparate di Tutela*, meaning an offer at free prices at conditions equivalent to those of the standard offer) will be available to households and small businesses; it will be clear and easily understandable, with free pricing and contractual terms defined by the Authority. This offer, which is included in the provisions of the law, also aims to identify the minimum contractual conditions and requirements that operators must respect to ensure comparability and uniformity of offers.

Resolution no. 610/2017/R/com is available on the website www.autorita.energia.it.