

PRESS RELEASE

Energy: ARERA in Albania for the integration of markets

Milan, 9 April 2019 - Achieving greater regional energy integration for a more competitive market, thanks to the growing investments in electricity production from renewable sources and new interconnection infrastructures. This is the objective at the centre of the meeting that took place today in Tirana in Albania, which was attended by representatives from ARERA and the main Italian and Albanian institutions and companies, as well as European organisations.

These topics were discussed during the workshop "The energy transition and challenges for a free and integrated electricity market: the case of Albania", analysed in a broader context that sees the Balkan country involved in a time of delicate energy transition.

The initiative, hosted by the Italian Embassy with the added desire of strengthening the relationship between Italy and Albania in the energy field more in general, was also attended, besides ARERA, by GME and TERNA for Italy, ERE (the sector regulator) and OSHEE (the largest energy distribution operator) for Albania, in addition to the EU Delegation in Albania and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The Italian Ambassador in Tirana, Alberto Cutillo, introduced the workshop, followed by a speech from the Albanian Minister for Entrepreneurship, Eduard Shalsi and the Vice-Minister for Infrastructure and Energy, Illir Bejtja.

"The entry into operation of the Italy-Montenegro interconnection cable, expected by the second half of this year, will contribute to increasing the energy exchanges between Italy and the Balkan region and to supporting the integration of the energy market between the two countries that the Authority hopes to achieve" commented Stefano Saglia, member of ARERA's Board, who was present at the meeting.

In the margins of the workshop there was also a meeting between ARERA and the Italian energy companies present in Albania, with particular reference to the hydroelectric sector, during which possible prospects for future investment were examined.