

PRESS RELEASE

Coronavirus: small businesses to see their bills reduced by €600 million

ARERA implements the measure envisaged by the
Decreto Rilancio (Relaunch Decree).

Between 20% and 70 % savings for non-domestic users.

Milan, 26 May 2020 - Start of the €600 million reduction in electricity bills for *non-domestic users with low voltage connection*, by decreasing the fixed components of transport, distribution and metering tariffs and general charges.

Just a few days since publication of the Relaunch Decree in the *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, with a resolution approved today, ARERA implements the measure envisaged by Art. 30, which had been the subject of its report to the Government and Parliament, as one of the proposals to contrast the COVID-19 emergency.

For small businesses, artisans, bars, restaurants, laboratories, professionals and services (non-domestic low voltage customers) with a power greater than 3 kW, for the quarter May-June-July, the power-related share shall be reduced to zero and a reduced fixed share only shall be applied (conventionally fixed at the share for subscribed power of 3 kW), without in any way reducing the actual service in terms of available power.

The savings for 3.7 million non-domestic customers concerned - which comes to around €70 per month for a customer with a contract for 15 kW power - will have a strong impact on total expenditure for businesses still forced to remain closed, reducing bills by up to 70%. For reopened businesses, savings will still be between 20% and 30% of the total bill.

If, on the date of entry into force of the Authority's provision, invoices relating to the current month of May had already been issued, the adjustments due must be made within the second subsequent billing period.

As required by the Relaunch Decree, the economic amount required to compensate the tariff reduction is borne by the State Budget, given the provisions of the same Art. 30 on the transfer of the necessary resources to the COVID-19 Emergency Account set up by the Authority with the Energy and Environmental Services Fund (CSEA). The relative provisions for managing the resources paid shall be defined with a subsequent measure.

“Speed is an integral part of effectiveness when it comes to implementing measures to help companies to get back to work,” says the President of **ARERA, Stefano Besseghini**. “Electricity is not, however, the only cost that has an impact on industrial activities. Regulation also enables us to guarantee a similar and efficient allocation of resources for any regulatory measures that the Government may decide to apply to the water and waste sectors.”

The resolution is under publication on the website www.arera.it