

PRESS RELEASE

**Electricity: requirement reduced from 5 to 2 years for delayed and balancing invoices from 1st March
in implementation of the provisions of the 2018 Italian Budget Law**

Milan, 23rd February 2018 – In implementation of the provisions of the 2018 Budget Law (*Legge di Bilancio*), in the event of electricity invoices due later than 1st March, in the event of significant delays in invoicing by suppliers or for balancing invoices due to a lack of availability of actual data for a particularly significant period, the customer may object to the so-called brief requirement (which has changed from 5 to 2 years) and pay only the last 24 months invoiced. The supplier will be required to inform the customer of the possibility of doing so at the time of issuing the invoice with these characteristics, and in any case at least 10 days prior to the payment due date. Furthermore, in the event of the supplier's delay in invoicing balances (despite coming promptly into possession of the correction measurement data) for consumption referring to periods greater than two years, the client is entitled to suspend payment, following a complaint to the supplier and if the Italian Antitrust Authority (AGCM) has opened proceedings against the supplier, and will also be entitled to receive reimbursement for the payments made if the AGCM proceedings are concluded with the ascertainment of an infringement. This is what is provided for by resolution 97/2018/R/com, applying the regulations introduced with the 2018 Italian Budget Law within the time period envisaged. The above mentioned law intends to reduce the phenomenon of non-ordinary amounts appearing on consumers' bills, enacting this with provisions aimed at holding both suppliers and distributors accountable.

In this way families and small companies will be more protected from the risk of having to pay so-called "maxi-bills", i.e. amounts much higher than normal arising from significant delays made by suppliers (for example invoicing block), correction of the measurement figure previously provided by the distributor and used for invoicing or a persistent lack of meter readings by distributors, where this lack of readings is not attributable to the conduct of the end customer. The resolution defines the start of the two-year requirement envisaged by the 2018 Italian Budget Law as from when the suppliers are required to issue the invoice document, as defined by the regulations in force.

Considering the importance of the Budget Law on the Authority's regulatory system, a procedure for identifying a set of basic rules to be applied in the context of the entire supply chain was also initiated along with the resolution in order to complete the definition for both the electricity and gas sectors.

Resolution 97/2018/R/com is available on the website www.arera.it