

## PRESS RELEASE

# Coronavirus: new extension for renewing the Social Bonuses

Milan, 29 April 2020 - More time to apply to renew national social bonuses (electricity, gas and water) and simultaneous guarantee of their continuity. These are the new measures that, with the persistent COVID-19 emergency, extend and amend Resolution 76/2020/R/com and that ARERA has adopted for people who qualify for national social bonuses and who may still have logistical difficulties in submitting the application to renew the bonus within the deadlines established previously.

In fact, the Authority has decided that consumers with bonus due to expire between 1 March and 31 May 2020 (the previous end date was 30 April) are entitled to renew their application for bonuses payments beyond the original due date, extending the deadline to 31 July 2020. Once the application has been accepted, following the standard checks, the “discount” will be guaranteed continuously and retroactively from the original due date. The renewal has the usual total duration of 12 months.

The period of validity of the provisions will be updated in accordance with possible future regulatory measures regarding the COVID-19 emergency.

*“In this phase, the topic of bonuses, to which we have always paid close attention, is of greater importance,”* explains President **Stefano Besseghini**, *“The Authority recently reported to the Government and Parliament the possibility of a regulation that also foresees the automatic renewal of bonuses for a further twelve months, until the start of automatic recognition based on the ISEE [Equivalent Economic Status Indicator] already envisaged from 2021. With the automatic issue of bonuses, which would be followed by a significant increase in the number of effective beneficiaries, and with the introduction of the waste bonus, for which implementing decrees are pending, two substantial elements are added to support vulnerable families.”*

The resolution is under publication on the website [www.arera.it](http://www.arera.it)

Social bonuses are a discount on the bill, introduced by the Government and made operational by ARERA with the collaboration of the municipalities, to ensure savings on spending on electricity, water and gas to families in economic and physical hardship and large families. The requirements to obtain the water, electricity or gas social bonus are: maximum ISEE (Equivalent Economic Status Indicator) threshold of € 8,265; for families with at least 4 dependent children ISEE not exceeding € 20,000. The application should be sent to the Municipality of residence or another institution designated by the Municipality (CAF, Mountain Communities). With a single form you can apply for access to all the bonuses. Following various reports from ARERA, the Government has envisaged that the recognition of bonuses for those entitled to them will become automatic (i.e. without the need to submit an application) from 2021.