

PRESS RELEASE

**Flood: 4-month suspension of payment deadlines  
for electricity, gas, water and waste bills**

*Possible further extension for worst hit population*

Milan, 15 June 2023 – The period of suspension of payment deadlines for electricity, gas, water and waste bills and notices for flood-hit populations (already decided by ARERA with Resolution 216/2023/R/com) will be 4 months from 1 May 2023. This was specified by ARERA by implementing Decree Law 61/23 (the “Flood Decree”). The suspension concerns all the utilities and supplies of the Municipalities identified by the same Decree, i.e. those located in part of the territory of Emilia-Romagna (provinces of Reggio-Emilia, Modena, Bologna, Ferrara, Ravenna, Forli-Cesena and Rimini), in some Municipalities of the province of Pesaro and Urbino and in some Municipalities of the metropolitan city of Florence.

The measure concerns payment deadlines for electricity and gas bills issued or to be issued due in the aforementioned period as well as bills and payment notices issued or to be issued by the Integrated Water Service operators or by the managers of tariffs and relations with users for the integrated urban waste management service.

ARERA postpones the further extension of the suspension to a possible subsequent ruling, in order to ensure that the worst hit population is effectively and adequately protected, even after the four-month period.

In the same Resolution, ARERA also established a series of additional measures to protect flooded populations. Without prejudice to the customer’s and user’s right to proceed with the immediate payment of the suspended amounts, the ruling states that the instalment of the amounts whose payment deadlines have been suspended shall be spread over a minimum period of 12 months, without discrimination and without application of interest to customers and users, without prejudice to the right to pay in instalments at the end of the suspension period or with an instalment plan of a shorter duration to be agreed upon with the supplier.

During the suspension period (i.e. from the date of 1 May 2023 to 31 August 2023), all actions on non-payment of bills provided for by ARERA’s regulation are also suspended, for customer and user defaults, even in the case of non-payment of bills occurring before the flooding.

In addition, suppliers and operators will publish the measures taken to protect affected users and supplies on their websites, within 20 days from the date of publication of the Resolution.

Finally, as a guarantee of their economic and financial equilibrium, suppliers and operators may request from the CSEA (Energy and Environmental Services Fund) an advance, free of charge, on the amounts not already paid for which the suspension of payment deadlines is provided for, if the amount of the invoices issued from 1 January 2023 to 1 May 2023, in respect of the beneficiaries of the suspension of payment deadlines, with reference to each sector, represents more than 3% of the amount of the invoices relating to all users and customers served.