



PRESS RELEASE

## **Electricity social bonuses: discounts on bills for 9,000 families unblocked after Tax Police and ARERA checks**

*Electricity bonuses disbursed immediately of € 1.7 million out of € 3.6 million*

Milan, 6 November 2024 - During 2024, **inspections** run by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy Networks and Environment (ARERA) and the military officers of the Special Goods and Services Unit of the Tax Police, who cooperate with ARERA on the basis of a memorandum of understanding, were **increased**.

The aim was to verify the **correct disbursement of the social electricity bonus**, a measure provided for by law to support millions of customers experiencing economic hardship. It is a form of relief aimed at alleviating the rising cost of household utility bills to protect the economically disadvantaged and those in serious health conditions.

Indeed, households in conditions of economic hardship submit a Single Declaration in Lieu (DSU) to the National Social Security Institute (INPS), for the calculation of the Indicator of Equivalent Economic Position (ISEE). Based on the ISEE and the number of household members, eligible persons are automatically granted the bonus, in the form of a 'discount', for a period of 12 months, without submitting an application.

The inspections run by ARERA and the Tax Police concerned **electricity suppliers required to report** regularly on the financial flows relating to the disbursement of the incentive. It thus emerged that, in some cases, compliance had not been observed and there were blocked positions of **users who then obtained the bonus late**.

Thanks to the careful examination of the accounts by the Tax Police, this supervisory operation led to the identification of approximately **€ 3.6 million in undisbursed social electricity bonuses**, of which **€ 1.7 million were 'released' and thus disbursed immediately**.

Over the course of the year, **more than 9,000 households in financial difficulty** recovered the bonus and received a discount on their electricity and gas bills.

Inspections and projects in the electricity and gas sector, based on the experience gained, **provide for new interventions that, already in the coming weeks, will involve additional suppliers**, confirming the constant attention that the Tax Police and ARERA devote to the weaker segments of the population and, more generally, to customer protection.