

PRESS RELEASE

**Emilia-Romagna emergency: urgent ruling by ARERA
for the suspension of payment of water, electricity, gas and waste bills**

Milan, 19 May 2023 - ARERA has just approved an emergency ruling suspending the payment of bills and payment notices for water, waste, electricity and gas (including LPG and other gases distributed through canalised grids) in favour of the populations of Emilia-Romagna affected by the exceptional weather events. Resolution 216/2023/R/com concerns all users in municipalities damaged by the disastrous events experienced since 1 May, and which have worsened considerably over the last few days. It will be applied from the date on which the competent authorities issue the rulings for the identification of the municipalities involved.

The bills suspended are all those issued or to be issued with a due date on or after 1 May 2023, including any bills relating to fees charged by suppliers or operators of the Integrated Water Service for connection, activation, deactivation, transfer or taking over.

In addition, in order to guarantee the use of essential services in the affected areas, the regulations governing suspensions for non-payment of bills will not apply, even in the case of non-payment of bills occurring prior to said date of 1 May 2023.

The suspension of bill payments is a first emergency ruling, in view of the possible extraordinary rulings that may be adopted by the government to support the populations affected by the flooding. New interventions by ARERA may also provide for the introduction of specific rules on payment by instalments, facilitations, also of a tariff nature, and possible exemptions from compliance with the obligations set forth in the regulations in force in favour of the operators affected by the events in question. Finally, suppliers and operators providing the above-mentioned public services will be able to offer additional, more favourable discounts, in line with the provisions of the ARERA resolution.

The resolution is going to be published on the website www.arera.it.