



**CONSULTATION DOCUMENT 01/2011**

**PROPOSED REGULATIONS OF THE GAS BALANCING PLATFORM**

**UNDER AEEG'S DECISION ARG/GAS 45/11**

## FOREWORD

On 14 Apr. 2011, *Autorità per l'energia elettrica e il gas* (hereinafter AEEG, electricity & gas regulator) adopted Decision ARG/gas 45/11 concerning rules on merit-order gas balancing. The Decision, implementing art. 11 of Legislative Decree no. 130 of 13 Aug. 2010 (measures to increase competitiveness in the natural gas market and to transfer the related benefits to final customers under art. 30, paras. 6 and 7 of Law no. 99 of 23 Jul. 2009), provides for the creation of a market platform where the Balancing Operator (*Snam Rete Gas S.p.A.*) will procure the resources needed to cover the overall imbalance of the national system.

In the new regulatory scenario, in order to keep the system in balance, Snam Rete Gas S.p.A. (as Balancing Operator) will have to resort to the resources that all the authorised users (users of the storage service except for transmission operators and users of the strategic storage service only) will be required to offer for sale or purchase on the balancing platform to be created. On this platform, the demand bids and supply offers will be selected on the basis of market criteria and, thus, under the economic merit-order criterion.

In this context, AEEG stated beforehand that the balancing service should remain to be provided solely by Snam Rete Gas S.p.A. as major transmission operator. However, in the above-mentioned Decision, AEEG provided that GME should - on behalf of the Balancing Operator – organise and manage the aforesaid balancing platform.

GME will confine itself to carrying out the above-mentioned management activities under the principles set out in the above Decision. Therefore, GME will not take on the role of central counterparty to the trades concluded on the Platform. This role will instead be directly played by the Balancing Operator.

The Platform for merit-order gas balancing is scheduled to take off on 1 July 2011.

## PROPOSED REGULATIONS OF THE GAS BALANCING PLATFORM

Art. 5, para. 5.1 of AEEG's Decision ARG/gas 45/11 provides that, within 50 days from its publication (namely by 4 June 2011), GME shall submit the proposed regulations of the Platform to the approval AEEG and **that, before doing so, GME shall hold a public consultation with interested parties and gather their comments, if any.**

To immediately implement the above provisions, GME is publishing this Consultation Document on "**Proposed Regulations of the Gas Balancing Platform under AEEG's Decision ARG/gas 45/11**", with a view to gathering comments, if any, from all interested parties.

Interested parties are invited to send their comments/proposals in writing to GME's Legal & Regulatory Office (*Unità Legale e Regolazione*) by **3 June 2011** at the latest (end date of the consultation) by:

e-mail: [info@mercatoelettrico.org](mailto:info@mercatoelettrico.org)

fax: +39-06-80124524

mail: **Gestore dei Mercati Energetici S.p.A.**

**Largo Giuseppe Tartini, 3/4**

**00198 - Roma**

If you want us to keep all or part of your comments/proposals confidential, please specify which parts of your comments/proposals are to be kept confidential.

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