



## **New issue of GME's Newsletter now on line**

Rome, 14 May 2008 – Issue no. 5 of the Newsletter of Gestore del Mercato Elettrico (GME) is now on line (downloadable from [www.mercatoelettrico.org](http://www.mercatoelettrico.org)).

This issue opens with a contribution by Umberto Quadrino, Edison's Chief Executive Officer, who analyses the energy challenges that Italy will have to face in the near future. Mr. Quadrino dwells on how to meet our energy requirements while complying with the emission reduction obligations established by the European Commission. He stresses the need for: i) increasing the share of electricity obtained from renewables; and ii) resorting to other technologies for low- or zero-emission electricity generation, such as nuclear energy, which should have a full-fledged position in our country's energy mix.

For developing nuclear generation, Mr. Quadrino assumes two different scenarios. Under the first one, electricity requirements would be mostly covered by fossil sources and by a significant contribution of renewables; to this scenario, 5 nuclear plants of 2 GW, covering 20% of Italian requirements, should be added. Conversely, under second scenario, greater reliance would be made on the nuclear source so as to offset difficulties in developing generation from renewables. Italy's return to nuclear energy (and lower generation costs) would substantially decrease the prices of electricity, considering the currently high prices of fossil fuels. Mr. Quadrino emphasises that the nuclear option calls for a bipartisan debate, which should take into account the needs of the country, the evolution of the energy scenario and our environmental pledges and make a choice between the unmanageable risks of the greenhouse effect and the manageable risks of nuclear power generation.

Issue no. 5 of GME's Newsletter also features: GME's Electricity Market summary data for the month of April; the usual technical commentaries on European and national markets, power exchanges and environmental exchanges; and a commentary by Clara Poletti (IEFE - Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy, Università Bocconi) on market coupling at European level.

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