

**Imola, 28 September 2009**

**Declaration of the Authority for Electricity and Gas Chairman during the inauguration of the cogeneration plant in Imola**

“The initiatives aimed at giving further impetus to the development of *energy efficiency* are playing a role of priority for the contribution they can offer in terms of safety, low energy services costs and environmental protection. This is not only consistent with the nation’s energy-environmental strategies, but also with those of the European Union and with the policies that are becoming consolidated worldwide to achieve *sustainable development*.” This statement was made by the Authority for **Electricity** and Gas Chairman Alessandro Ortis at the inauguration of the new Imola cogeneration plant built by the Hera Group.

“Plants like the *new Imola cogeneration plant* can also be numbered among the initiatives capable of improving the *efficiency* of the system and market,” said Ortis. “This plant offers the combined production of electricity and heat for district heating, thus providing benefits greater than those that can be achieved (at the same supply levels) with separate plants. Indeed, cogeneration makes it possible to guarantee higher fuel yields and savings. It is precisely for this reason, to support *high yield cogeneration*, that a new regulatory framework act providing incentives has been formulated also for our country in order to adopt European Directive 2004/8/EC. The AEEG will not fail to collaborate with the upcoming ministerial decrees implementing the Directive with consistent regulatory interventions aimed at developing the set of incentives already available today,” Ortis stressed. “They are already contributing to assisting in the development of renewable sources, energy efficiency (production or consumption) and savings, thus offering the country and the citizens benefits,” he concluded.

**Alessandro Ortis**

*Authority for Electricity and Gas Chairman*