

press release  
Bologna, 06 June 2017

## **Galletti: “Emilia-Romagna doing well, self-sufficient on the waste front”**

*Italy's Minister for the Environment speaks at the conference on the circular economy - organised by Hera as one of several G7-related events - and cites the good progress being made by the multi-utility firm in the areas it serves. With 300 million euro generated by pursuing the targets of the UN's 2030 Agenda, Hera presents its Sustainability Report and encourages the adoption of shared rules to accelerate the transition towards ever-greener development models.*

Just a few days after the G7 summit on the environment, associated events are under way. These include a conference on the circular economy, organised by the Hera Group at its Bologna headquarters to coincide with the release of the multi-utility firm's sustainability report. Those present included the Minister for the Environment, Gian Luca Galletti. The latter underlined the importance of the circular economy in the context of the fourth industrial revolution being implemented by advanced economies: he also highlighted the massive progress made by regions like Emilia-Romagna. Also present were key figures from the business community, public institutions and research bodies, all at Hera to discuss how best to make the transition to ever-more sustainable development models. Speakers included Enrico Giovannini, Professor of Economic Statistics at the University of Rome; Oscar Farinetti, founder of Eataly; Catia Bastioli, CEO of Novamont S.p.A. and Carlo Ratti, Director of MIT Senseable City Lab.

Preceding them was Ellen MacArthur, known also for the same-named foundation that is the world's most important and most active circular economy organisation. “Within the next 100 years coal will be history”, explained MacArthur, “but it's not enough just to save resources: we need to exploit such savings to gain the time needed to make the transition from a linear economy to a circular one, which decouples resource scarcity from growth prospects and focuses on innovation, training and new generations.”

Indeed, “innovation” and “creativity” were the watchwords of the Hera-organised conference that – through its top managers – illustrated the Group's commitment to sustainability and showed how it is engaged in 10 of the 17 goals listed on the UN's 2030 agenda.

More specifically, the latest edition of the Sustainability Report takes into account “shared value” (i.e. the wealth generated by Hera's pursuit of the UN's global agenda). Accounting for about a third of the gross operating margin in 2016, the multi-utility's “shared value” amounted to 300 million euro. It was produced in three strategic areas: intelligent energy use (with 48 million euro from the promotion of energy efficiency and 29 million from wider use of renewable energy); efficient use of resources (110 million euro earned from the transition towards a circular economy and 83 million from sustainable water resource management); innovation and territorial development (18 million euro from ground-breaking projects and digitalisation, 11 million euro from safeguarding air and soil and 35 million euro for local economic development and social inclusion projects).

“These opportunities for discussion are essential”, states Tomaso Tommasi di Vignano, Executive Chair of the Hera Group, “as they contextualise Hera's excellent circular economy development results in their broader international setting. What's at stake”, continues Tommasi, “is the acceleration of a transition that requires everyone's involvement, especially as regards the need for a more reliable, shared regulatory framework that will facilitate planning, investment and the consolidation processes that, in the long term, are essential for lasting, sustainable growth.”

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### **USEFUL LINKS**

[Bilancio di Sostenibilità 2016 del Gruppo Hera](#)

### **CONTACTS**

Cecilia Bondioli  
Hera Group  
Chief Press Officer  
051.287595 - 320.4790622  
[cecilia.bondioli@gruppohera.it](mailto:cecilia.bondioli@gruppohera.it)

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