



**press release**

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## **Hera included in the new MIB ESG Index**

*Being part of Italy's first blue-chip index, launched today by Euronext and Borsa Italiana and dedicated to ESG best practices, gives Hera additional recognition for its focus on sustainability and creating shared value for all stakeholders*

The Hera Group has received yet another significant recognition, a reward for its way of integrating financial strategies and attention to sustainability: Hera has been included in the MIB ESG Index (Bloomberg gross return code: MIBESG), Italy's first blue-chip index dedicated to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) best practices.

Announced today by Euronext and Borsa Italiana, the MIB ESG Index combines measurements of operating performance with ESG assessments, in line with the principles of the United Nations Global Compact. Inclusion in this index is based on an analysis by Vigeo Eiris, a Moody's ESG Solutions company, and is designed to meet growing investor and market demand for sustainable investment instruments. The creation of this index is an important step in accelerating the transition to a sustainable economy and allowing investors to fund high-impact projects and companies in Italy and Europe.

The index's methodology was designed in a collaboration with the financial community, public institutions and regulatory authorities. Its main goals include facilitating the adoption of traditional ESG investment approaches by public and private investors and gathering consensus for sustainable and responsible investments.

After being included one year ago in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, World and Europe, with recognition as the best multi-utility worldwide by S&P Global, with today's inclusion in the MIB ESG Index, Hera's successful corporate strategy has been further confirmed. The combination of growth in results and sustainability, alongside creating value for all stakeholders, defines the path taken by Hera ever since it was founded, 20 years ago.

The Group's Business Plans themselves highlight its various sustainability objectives – circularity, decarbonisation, risk management – to 2024 and 2030. Broken down by business area, these goals are based on investments that increase asset resilience, innovation, digitalisation, artificial intelligence and big data. More specifically, the Hera Group's greenhouse gas emission reduction target is one of the most ambitious among Italian companies: 37% less by 2030 compared to 2019, as certified by the prestigious international network Science Based Target initiative (SBTi). Hera aims in particular to meet the "Well below 2°C" objective, conceived to limit the increase in global temperature to significantly less than 2°C compared to pre-industrial data, in line with the path set out by the Paris Climate Agreement.

In addition to steadily improving its operating and financial results, Hera's focus on ESG factors is accompanied by its stable governance, unique in the sector and rewarded this year with the highest ranking in Italy in the Integrated Governance Index, compiled by ETicaNews.



A pioneer in the field of sustainable finance since it launched Italy's first green bond in 2014, Hera successfully issued a sustainability-linked bond amounting to 500 million euro only a few days ago. A high level of interest was shown by international investors, whose subscriptions came to roughly four times the amount offered. This non-convertible bond's issuance is linked to targets in reducing emissions and recycling plastics. Two years ago, Hera was also the first company in Italy to launch a sustainable revolving credit line, introducing a bonus mechanism linked to achieving specific environmental, social and governance (ESG) objectives.

Green and, more generally, ESG financial instruments represent a fundamental lever with which Hera creates value and supports its commitment to increasingly regenerative and resilient development.

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