

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN ITALY DOWN 2.8% IN OCTOBER **From the beginning of the year the demand increased by 0.5%**

Rome, November 7, 2008 – In October 2008 the amount of electricity used in Italy, at 28.3 billion kWh, registered a 2.8% decrease over the same month in 2007. The finding was announced by TERNA, the company responsible for transferring and dispatching electricity throughout Italy.

The result, obtained with the same number of working days (23), was only partly influenced by an average monthly temperature higher by around one degree as compared to the same month in 2007. If we compared the demand in October 2008 with that of the same period in 2007, with the same temperature, the variation would be equal to -2.5%. This phenomenon showed a slow down of industrial activity and of services in October.

An analysis carried out by TERNA revealed that, at the national level, the change in the demand was overall negative but not homogeneous: -3.8% in the North, -1.8% in the Center, -1.2% in the South.

In particular it should be noted that, compared to October 2007, electricity requirements registered a decrease of 6.9% in Lombardy.

The 28.3 billion kWh needed for the month of October were distributed as follows: 46.6% in the North, 29.6% in the Center and 23.8% in the South.

In October 2008, 90% of Italian electricity requirements were covered by national production, with the remaining 10% covered by the difference between imports and exports.

In detail, Italian net production (26.1 billion kilowatt-hours) increased by 1% compared to the same month in 2007. Hydroelectric (+10.3%) and wind energy production (+36.4%) increased; thermoelectric (-0.5%) and geothermal energy production (-7.3%) decreased.

The short-term profile of demand for electricity in October 2008 showed a decrease of 2% compared to the previous month.

In the first ten months of 2008 electricity demand in Italy increased by 0.5% as compared to the same period in 2007.

The detailed analysis of 2007 final monthly electricity consumption and of 2008 provisional one is available in the Italian language publication "Rapporto Mensile sul Sistema Elettrico" (Monthly Electricity System Report), which may be examined in the "Sistema Elettrico – Dispacciamento – Dati esercizio" area of TERNA's website: www.terna.it.