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SULMONA GAS COMPRESSOR STATION, T&P WINS THE CASE FOR SNAM RETE GAS

In its sentences no. 7563 and no. 7774, issued on 11 and 17 June 2019 respectively, Section III of the Lazio Regional Administrative Court ruled in favour, on the basis of the arguments submitted by Todarello & Partners, of the procedure implemented by Snam Rete Gas, in a case involving important topics regarding the role of the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) within administrative procedures.

The Lazio Regional Court completely rejected the petitions and subsequent additional arguments submitted by the Abruzzo Region and the Municipality of Sulmona – challenging the decisions of the Italian Government and the Ministry of Economic Development concerning the procedure for authorisation of the construction and operation of the Sulmona Gas Compressor Station, applied for by Snam Rete Gas – and ruled in favour of the position maintained by Snam, supported by the arguments put forward by Todarello & Partners.

The Court's sentences thus finally mark the end of the lengthy and fiercely contested authorisation procedure, which began in 2005, for the construction and operation of the Sulmona Gas Compressor Station, which forms part of the "Adriatic network" of natural gas pipelines, covering a distance of 687 km from Massafra (Taranto) to Minerbio (Bologna).

The project is of undeniable strategic importance for a large number of reasons, chief amongst them:

- (i) the diversification of energy supply sources and routes;
- (ii) strategic interest to Italy and to the EU as a whole;
- (iii) strategic importance in terms of security of supply;
- (iv) increase in natural gas transport and delivery capacity at the local level.

Therefore, further to the Lazio Regional Administrative Court's ruling, the project for construction of the Sulmona gas compressor station, a strategic facility of national and also EU significance (included on the Commission's list of projects of EU-wide interest), can now go ahead.

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The Authors of this article are Fabio Todarello and Federico Novelli.

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Todarello & Partners supplies legal advice on all matters relating to the topics covered in this article. The firm's lawyers have impressive experience in this area, since they regularly advise some of the market's biggest players, representing them before the courts in all competent jurisdictions.

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