

THE WOOD-ENERGY SUPPLY CHAIN AT THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT WITH VERONAFIERE AND PROGETTO FUOCO

Dialogue with Minister Pichetto Fratin on energy policies, ecological transition and regulatory framework

Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, Minister of the Environment and Energy Security: «The Ministry continues its dialogue with industry operators, aware that every renewable source, if properly regulated and managed, can make a concrete contribution to climate neutrality».

Federico Bricolo, President of Veronafiere: «For the first time, Veronafiere and Progetto Fuoco bring the needs of the wood bioenergy supply chain to the attention of the Minister of the Environment: a significant moment that confirms our role as a platform for dialogue between businesses and institutions».

Roma, 3 July 2025 – A direct discussion between institutions and businesses to define the future of wood bioenergy in Italy, a sector that includes 14,000 companies and a turnover of over 4 billion euros. Today, 5 million Italian households heat their homes with biomass, thanks to a stock of over 8 million devices, including stoves, fireplaces, boilers and large systems.

For the first time, thanks to **Veronafiere** and **Progetto Fuoco** – in collaboration with **AIEL**, the Italian Association of Agroforestry Energy – the supply chain was received today at the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, where Minister **Gilberto Pichetto Fratin** welcomed a sector delegation. Central to the dialogue was the strategic contribution of woody biomass to the country's ecological transition and the need for a stable and coordinated regulatory framework.

Attending the meeting were Veronafiere President **Federico Bricolo**, General Manager **Adolfo Rebughini**, Progetto Fuoco Event Manager **Monica Pontarin**, as well as AIEL President **Domenico Brugnoli**, General Director **Annalisa Paniz**, and a delegation of key companies in the sector.

Key topics of the discussion included the role of wood bioenergy in the energy transition, technological innovation in the sector, and prospects for environmental and economic sustainability. The main challenges facing the supply chain were also addressed, such as the need for a stable regulatory framework and appropriate incentives to support sector investments.

*«The wood-energy supply chain» observes **Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, Minister of the Environment and Energy Security**, «is an important element of our energy security. Sustainably enhancing woody biomass means promoting a circular economy, strengthening the Italian forest-wood sector. It is necessary to work towards a stable and coherent regulatory framework that encourages technological innovation, environmental quality, and investments. The Ministry continues its dialogue with industry operators, aware that every renewable source, if properly regulated and managed, can make a concrete contribution to climate neutrality», concludes Pichetto.*

*«With this meeting, for the first time, Veronafiere and Progetto Fuoco bring the demands of the wood-energy supply chain to the attention of the Minister of the Environment: a significant moment that confirms our role as a platform for dialogue between businesses and institutions», said **Federico Bricolo**, President of Veronafiere. «Progetto Fuoco is more than a trade fair: it is a tool serving innovation and the energy transition of a sector that is strategic for the country. We believe in the value of trade fairs as infrastructures of economic and environmental diplomacy, and our goal is to continue to foster dialogue between companies and institutions for the benefit of the territories».*

*«The wood-energy supply chain represents one of the most important strategic resources for the country, from an energy, economic, and environmental perspective», emphasized **Annalisa Paniz**, General Director of AIEL. «For this reason, we have proposed the establishment of a Permanent Interministerial Table involving the Ministries of the Environment and Energy Security, Enterprises and Made in Italy, and Agriculture and Forests. The goal is to coordinate public policies on energy, industry, and forest resources, overcoming the current fragmentation and harmonizing strategies for a coherent ecological transition. Only with a systemic vision will we be able to meet the European climate targets, while simultaneously strengthening the country's energy security and social cohesion». «Today's meeting is an important signal of institutional listening», said **Domenico Brugnoli**, President of AIEL. «It is essential that politics recognizes the strategic value of the wood-energy supply chain and consistently supports the sector along the path of innovation and ecological transition, providing adequate and stable regulatory and incentive tools».*

*«The meeting with the Minister of the Environment was a strategic opportunity for the entire supply chain», said **Monica Pontarin**, Event Manager of Progetto Fuoco. «It was a moment of dialogue on the development prospects of wood bioenergy in Italy, during which we highlighted the central role of technological innovation to increase plant efficiency and reduce emissions. As Veronafiere and Progetto Fuoco, we renew our commitment to promoting constant and constructive dialogue between businesses and institutions. In this context, we have invited the Minister to the next edition of Progetto Fuoco, scheduled in Verona from 25 to 28 February 2026, to continue placing the wood-energy supply chain at the center of Italy's energy transition. A process that has already begun with the National Forum on Wood Energy held last March».*

Topics at the heart of the meeting

During the meeting with the Minister, the supply chain emphasized that a systemic and integrated approach, coordinating energy policy with environmental, climate, forestry, and circular bioeconomy policies, can strengthen Italy's contribution to achieving renewable energy and climate neutrality targets. In this perspective, the forest-wood supply chain must be fully enhanced as a pillar of a wood-based economy. This choice can also contribute to **national energy security**: Italy depends on foreign sources for almost 80% of its energy, and methane is imported at a rate of 99%. Properly enhanced, thermal bioenergy from wood could replace up to 15% of imported methane.

The wood-energy supply chain in Italy

The sector includes over 14,000 Italian companies, with more than 72,000 jobs and generates an economic value exceeding 4 billion euros. Biomass is the second most common source of domestic heating in Italy, after methane, with a market penetration of around 15%, and accounts for 65.7% of renewable heat production in the residential sector. The sector represents an excellence of *Made in Italy*, with Italian manufacturers of household appliances accounting for over 80% of the European market.

Progetto Fuoco 2026

Progetto Fuoco is the world's leading event dedicated to appliances for heating and energy production through biomass. Organized biennially by Veronafiere, it will return to Verona from **25 to 28 February 2026**. The next edition will focus on innovative solutions for optimizing the use of natural resources, reducing CO₂ emissions, and increasing energy efficiency. The event will also offer spaces for discussion on policies and strategies to promote a sustainable energy future, with a focus on the circular economy and reducing the ecological footprint.

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