

## E.ON CEO Raffel argues producers, importers, state benefit from rising energy bills

**Electricity and gas producers, importers, as well as the Romanian state, through taxes, are the ones who stand to benefit from the increase in bills, while suppliers have no additional benefits, said the General Director of E.ON Romania, Volker Raffel, in an interview for AGERPRES.**

He says E.ON cannot find anywhere to buy energy from at a reasonable price, and called the price at which producers currently sell their energy "crazy."

At the same time, E.ON did not violate the bill offsetting law, as announced by the National Consumer Protection Authority (ANPC), but on the contrary, it was the first company to apply the reductions since November, Raffel claims.

"The fine we have received was for the odd mistakes we made in the past few months and they have nothing to do with the application of this law. As I said, the control over the application of this law took place last week and we have not received any fine, only confirmation [that we implemented the law properly - ed.n.]."

Volker Raffel said that 60 percent of consumers of electricity and 50 percent of gas consumers qualified to receive the offset scheme decided by the authorities. Raffel added that "it is clear that the bills need to be reduced in some way. These prices that we see on the wholesale market, which are demanded by producers and importers, are not sustainable, they cannot remain that way."

Raffel further affirmed that he has been working in the industry for more than 20 years and "I haven't seen anything like it. And I can tell you that it has nothing to do with liberalization. The same thing is happening on regulated markets, because there is this energy deficit everywhere. The real problem behind this is the lack of investment in the past."

Finally, the General Director of E.ON Romania said "We advise our customers to take care of their consumption because, according to the law, if you are part of a certain category of consumers, if you do not consume too much, you can benefit from certain reductions, so this is the only advice I can give. The law is as it is and if a customer consumes too much energy then he/she is suddenly no longer eligible, so this is the advice we can give our customers."