

Press Release

Bilateral meeting between State Secretary at the Ministry of Capital Investments of Montenegro and OME



Paris, 25 February 2022 – As part of the UfM Gas Platform activities, Houda Ben Jannet Allal, OME General Director, and Marko Perunović, State Secretary at the Ministry of Capital Investments of Montenegro, met via Zoom on 24 February 2022 to discuss current and future activities of the Platform, as well as ways of enhancing cooperation between Montenegro, OME and the Secretariat of the Platform.

They also spoke about Montenegro's energy sector and its plans to further diversify its energy supply; to move away from coal to renewables and also introduce natural gas into the energy mix. Montenegro is working with the neighbouring countries and potential suppliers for bringing gas into the country and use it for electricity generation. The Ionian-Adriatic gas pipeline project is seen as the main option for the gasification of the country.

This bilateral meeting reflects OME's ambition, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, to bring together all stakeholders of the gas chain from the Euro-Mediterranean region (policymakers, industry representatives, regulators, etc.) with the aim to enhance cooperation between them, in order to improve gas security and gas exchanges in the entire region by identifying barriers and opportunities.

Initiated in Malta in July 2014, confirmed in Rome in November 2014 and launched in June 2015, in Brussels, the objective of the UfM Gas Platform is to enhance the cooperation in the Euro-Med. region between all stakeholders of the gas chain, in a bottom-up approach to improve gas security by identifying barriers and opportunities. The "Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie" (OME) runs the Platform's secretariat in close coordination with the UfM co-presidency.

The UfM Gas Platform is one of the three UfM Energy Platforms (The two others are on regional electricity market and on renewable energy and energy efficiency) established by EU Energy Ministers, Ministers of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, and the European Commission to further strengthen regional cooperation in the Mediterranean for ensuring secure, affordable and sustainable energy for the region and beyond.

More information about the UfM Gas Platform available at <https://www.ufmgasplatform.org/>