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Organisation Méditerranéenne de l'Energie et du Climat

Gas as a transition and support fuel in the Mediterranean region for a more resilient, sustainable and affordable energy system

Paris, 17 December 2025 — Gaseous fuels have an important role to play in balancing energy security, sustainability and affordability as the Mediterranean region transitions to a more sustainable energy mix. They provide flexibility and grid support while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thus meriting important investments in the region.

On 16 December, the Organisation Méditerranéenne de l'Énergie et du Climat (OMEC) organised the annual conference of the Union for the Mediterranean's working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen (formerly the UfM Gas Platform), asking the essential question: What role do gaseous fuels have to play in balancing the energy trilemma (security, sustainability, affordability)? The conference was organised with the support of the European Commission. The event, hosted at the historic Le Meurice Hotel in Paris, brought together key stakeholders from government, industry and institutions to discuss the state of the Mediterranean energy system and how gaseous fuels may contribute to the impending energy transition. Around 80 delegates, attending online and in-person and covering the entire Mediterranean region, contributed to the success of the event.

Speakers highlighted the high stakes of the energy transition in the Mediterranean, a region warming 20% faster than the global average as a result of climate change. In Europe, energy discourse has shifted in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, the Gaza crisis and blackouts in the Iberian Peninsula and in Germany's Dunkelflaute, reshaping the priorities of the energy trilemma. Energy security (access, system resilience and grid stability) along with affordability (notably the need to limit price volatility) have re-emerged as non-negotiable pillars. These concerns are increasingly viewed not as alternatives to sustainability, but as essential conditions for a credible and durable expansion of renewables within the energy mix.

In order to maintain the resilience of the grid and avoid the pitfalls of reliance on a single source of gaseous fuels, participants highlighted the need for cooperation across the Mediterranean basin. Such initiatives as the Pact for the Mediterranean and the T-Med provide a context for inclusive cross-border collaboration while the EU continues to strive for a net-zero pathway by 2050.

During the debates, speakers emphasized that the energy transition also requires a reduction in demand through significant energy savings and improved energy efficiency. Natural gas, alongside low-carbon and renewable gases, need also to play a key role in this process. They are not just transition fuels. Rather, they provide flexibility and stability to the grid as the share of renewables increases, support the competitiveness of industries, and offer scalable pathways to decarbonisation in sectors where electrification alone is insufficient for emissions abatement. They can also help to contain system costs and benefit from existing infrastructure that can be shared across different types of gases. It was also recalled that reducing methane emissions is an integral part of the energy transition and is necessary to maintain natural gas in the EU.

The day closed with reflections on the future of the Working Group. Speakers called for developing avenues for the role of gas combined with carbon capture and storage, particularly in the south Mediterranean, and stressed the importance to engage with financial institutions at future conferences in order to facilitate dialogue on the substantial investments required across the region.

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 was 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.
In May 2024, during the annual meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms, the UfM Gas Platform was renamed as the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement, and Hydrogen to broaden its mandate to renewable and low-carbon gases, hydrogen, emissions abatement, and clean technology cooperation.
The "Organisation Méditerranéenne de l'Energie et du Climat" (OMEC) runs the working group's secretariat in close coordination with the UfM co-presidency. More information about the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen at https://www.ufmgasplatform.org/