UfM Gas Platform Newsletter

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Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

The Third Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Meeting on Energy, co-chaired by Jordan and the European Union, and hosted by Portugal, was held on 14 June 2021.

On this occasion, UfM Ministers announced reinforced cooperation on ambitious targets for energy sustainability in the Mediterranean region. They adopted a new Ministerial Declaration, which will be developed into concrete action plans by the three UfM Energy Platforms, which act as fora for dialogue bringing together relevant stakeholders and organisations from across the region.

As a first follow-up action, the UfM Secretariat organized, on 29 June 2021, an online meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms to launch the preparation of the Roadmap for Action mandated by the Declaration. The meeting aimed at coordinating the work of the three energy platforms for the coming years.

In June 2021, the OME released the 2021 edition of its Mediterranean Energy Perspectives (MEP*to2050*). The publication includes, for the first time, a joint scenario with the UfM Energy Platforms, the "ProMed Scenario". This Near Zero Carbon scenario, co-funded by the European Commission, is based on existing and foreseen energy efficiency, increased diversification in the energy mix, and the expertise drawn from the experts-scenario workshops organized with the contribution of the three UfM Energy Platforms. Some of the key findings were presented during the UfM Ministerial Meeting in Lisbon by Mr Kamel Ben Naceur, former Minister of Industry, Energy and Mineral Resources of Tunisia and Mr Andris Piebalgs, former EU Commissioner for Energy.

Near Zero Carbon ProMed scenario released in June 2021

Also in June, the Secretariat of the Platform circulated a final version of the report titled "Reduction of carbon intensity in the transportation sector in the Mediterranean urban areas", incorporating all the comments received by the Gas Platform members. The next reports to be circulated will be on the role of renewables gases and power-to-gas in low carbon Mediterranean energy future. Additional reports on the methane emissions and coal

Inside this Issue

p1 Message from Secretariat

p2 UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy

p2 Upcoming event

The UfM Gas Platform is a concrete outcome of the will of the UfM members and major stakeholders to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the EU and South and East Mediterranean countries.

More information available at: **ufmgasplatform.org**

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to gas switching will also be disseminated by the Secretariat to the stakeholders of the UfM Gas Platform during the next quarter.

UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy in Lisbon



On 14 June 2021, the Ministers of the UfM in charge of Energy gathered for their Third Ministerial Conference on Energy in Lisbon, Portugal.

The Mediterranean basin today faces urgent energy challenges. It is home to a population of over 500 million inhabitants and growing, with its energy demand estimated to increase by more than 50% in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries by 2040.

Energy Ministers from the 42 UfM Member States met to discuss regional cooperation towards energy security and a low-carbon transition.

The meeting culminated in a Joint Ministerial Declaration, in which all UfM Member States agreed to join efforts to address the region's energy challenges, and to promote a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministerial Declaration raises the ambition of the region to contribute to a green, just and fair energy transition and untapping all the existing opportunities, in line with the climate goals.

The declaration also states its support to the UfM Energy Platforms, the main dialogue forum in the region, and mandates to elaborate a strategic Roadmap for Action that will include concrete activities to implement the objectives of the declaration: the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform, the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform, and the UfM Gas Platform.

Upcoming event

On 1 July 2021, a virtual conference will be held on the role of renewable gases and power to gas towards a low carbon Mediterranean energy future.

The aim of the workshop is to discuss whether development of renewable gases can have considerable potential, what role they can play towards a sustainable energy future and how.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to provide food for thoughts for studies that are prepared within the framework of a working group dedicated to the same topic, and launched in February 2021.

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