UfM Gas Platform Newsletter

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Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

On 1 July 2021, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform organized a new workshop, this time on the role of renewable gases as an energy carrier towards a low carbon energy future. Initially planned to take place "physically", the core of UfM energy platforms' mandate being to foster dialogue and exchange among all Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders, the event could only be held virtually because of the continuous sanitary and legal constraints linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, more than 70 delegates registered to the video conference from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea and participated to the success of the event.

Three additional draft reports distributed to WG members

Following the workshop, and incorporating the comments received during the event, two draft reports were sent in July to WG members on "the role of renewable gases as an energy carrier towards a low carbon Mediterranean energy future" and on "the Power to Gas, a sector coupling perspective towards a more sustainable energy transition in the Euro-Med area". Another draft report on "fighting fugitive methane emissions: status and actions" was sent the same month to WG members for their comments.

During this quarter, the Secretariat continued a concrete and effective dissemination of the information about the UfM Gas Platform and its activities among the broader public through its dedicated website.

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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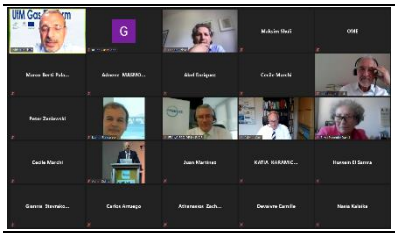
Virtual workshop on the role of renewable gases as an energy carrier towards a low carbon energy future



As Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, the OME organized on 1 July 2021 through video conferencing and with the support of the European Commission, a workshop on the role of renewable gases as an energy carrier towards a low carbon energy future.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss whether development of renewable gases can have considerable potential. In his welcoming remarks, Leonidas Kioussis, European Commission, underlined the importance of today's discussion in regard to identifying the role of renewable gases in the energy transition process. He recalled that both the promising potential of renewable gases and the importance of regional cooperation were strongly highlighted at the last UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy held on 14 June 2021. They also agreed to foster exchange of knowledge and capacity building which was perfectly served by today's event. Next, Sohbet Karbuz, OME, stressed on the opportunity to hear from senior experts on the role renewable gases can play towards a sustainable energy future and how. The event follows the launch, in February 2021, of a UfM Gas Platform working group dedicated to the role of power-to-gas and renewable gases technologies in the Mediterranean energy transition.

Prior to the technical sessions, Lukasz Lisicki, European Commission, set the scene presenting the EU hydrogen strategy and gas markets decarbonization package. Touching upon the different EU plans and strategies articulated around the European green Deal, he focused on the roadmap to 2050 for the EU Hydrogen strategy and the future role of renewable and low-carbon gases. Several legislative proposals to reform gas markets are in the process of preparation in the EC. These include the Hydrogen and decarbonized gas package, and renewable energy directive.

In the two following sessions, on "Biogas and biomethane" and "hydrogen and power-to-gas", senior experts presented the framework and the recent developments for each renewable gas (technology) as well as their perspectives for the future in the World and in the Euro-Mediterranean region. They all stressed on the crucial role for renewable gases and hydrogen in the energy transition process and for repurposing existing gas infrastructure.

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