UfM Gas Platform Newsletter

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Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

In this particular and challenging time for the energy sector in the region, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform maintains the work accomplished to date to further enhance a regional structured dialogue, which serves the progressive development of a more secure, transparent and predictable Euro-Mediterranean gas market. The aim being for the UfM Gas Platform to become the "gathering place of reference" for policy makers to discuss and shape the gas related developments in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

In February, the OME, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, met with Montenegro officials to discuss ways of cooperation. And, following the adoption of the UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy in June 2021, it participated in the annual meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms to finalize a draft version of the UfM Roadmap for Action on Energy mandated by the Declaration.

During the quarter, the Secretariat continued a sustained production and distribution of various reports, in line with its work programme. A draft report on "the switch from coal to gas in the power sector in the Med. region" was sent to WG members for their comments. While another report on "natural gas trade among the South Med. countries: Perspective for the future" was finalized. The latter aims at investigating the natural gas trade among the countries in the South Mediterranean region, which include North African countries, from Morocco to Egypt including Mauritania and non-EU countries in the South East Mediterranean, including Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Turkey. The study provides insights into the reasons why intraregional gas trade has not well developed together with challenges and opportunities to increase gas trade in the south Mediterranean region. In the coming months, research work will focus on technological improvements and environmental mitigation options. A working group will be launched on the topic.

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New (draft) reports circulated among WG members

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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Annual meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms

On 2 February 2022, OME participated to the Annual Meeting of the three UfM energy platforms (dealing with electricity markets, renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas in the Mediterranean region). This annual meeting, organized through Zoom by the Secretariat of the UfM, was of high importance to discuss and adopt the UfM Roadmap for Action on Energy compiled thanks to the contributions from the Member States and in coordination with the UfM energy stakeholders. This document will steer the work of all three UfM Energy Platforms (UfM REM, UfM REEE and UfM Gas) for the upcoming period, enabling to advance in the preparation of their activities in light of the 3rd UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy (14 June 2021).

Bilateral discussions between Montenegro and the UfM Gas Platform

On 24 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 to discuss current and future activities of the Platform, as well as ways of enhancing cooperation between Montenegro and the Secretariat of the Platform. They also spoke about Montenegro's energy sector and its plans to further diversify its energy supply.

This bilateral meeting reflects the Secretariat of the Gas Platform's ambition 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.

Upcoming event

In June 2022, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform will launch a new working group dedicated to "technological improvements and environmental mitigation options". This task is divided into sub groups/studies that will review distinctly: upstream and downstream mitigation options; the status of safety and environmental standard/regulations of the gas and LNG sector across the Euro-Mediterranean region; and the new energy security risks and mitigation options.