UfM Gas Platform Newsletter

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Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

In July 2022, the OME, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, launched a new webinar series that will be organised on a regular basis to exchange on energy hot topics and promote transfer of knowledge among Gas Platform stakeholders. The first two webinars took place on 7 and 18 July. They dealt with fighting methane emissions and carbon capture, utilisation and storage respectively. More than 30 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea participated in each session.

In September, the Secretariat of the Platform circulated a final version of the report titled "the switch from coal to gas in the power sector in the Mediterranean region", incorporating all the comments received by the Gas Platform members. The same month, a draft report on "the role and importance of South Mediterranean gas in European supply security" was sent to WG members for their comments.



On 29 September 2022, the OME organised at its headquarters in Paris, a new Mediterranean Energy Scenarios Experts meeting "Defining a common Mediterranean net-zero carbon scenario to 2050" with the ambition of finalizing a most representative and ambitious net-zero emissions scenario for the Mediterranean. This net-zero carbon emissions scenario for the Mediterranean, which the OME developed with the support of the European Commission, ambitions to meet all NDCs and announced net-zero pledges by 2050 and in full for all Mediterranean countries.

This shared vision or common scenario for the future energy trajectories in the region can be regarded as a powerful tool for policy-making at regional level.

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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Webinar on fighting methane emissions: latest developments



As Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, the OME organized on 7 July 2022 through video conferencing and with the support of the European Commission, a meeting on fighting methane emissions in the Mediterranean region with speakers from Enagas, GRTGaz, the EC and OME.

In the welcoming remarks, OME indicated that the aim of the webinar was to discuss recent developments and initiatives on fighting methane emissions since the release in December 2021 of the UfM Gas Platform report entitled "Management and reduction of methane emissions in the Mediterranean region: Status and actions".

Natural gas plays an important role worldwide by replacing more polluting fuels. However, to keep its role in the future, it requires further reductions of methane emissions, as well as to improve the reliability of the emissions data.

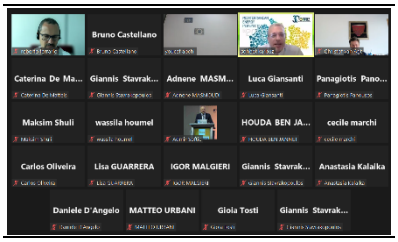
The meeting also addressed the issue of ship's pollution and the recent developments and compliance options of the Mediterranean Emission Control Area to reduce them. It also tackled the question of gas flaring. More than 10% of all gas flared worldwide comes from Mediterranean oil and gas producers. And, after progress was made in the late 1990s and 2000s to reduce flaring, volumes have remained static over the last 10 years.

Contact Us

Gas Platform Secretariat:
Dr. Houda Ben Jannet Allal
houda.allal@ome.org

Newsletter:
M. Bruno Castellano
bruno.castellano@ome.org

Webinar on carbon capture, utilisation and storage



Another webinar was organized on 18 July 2022, with the aim of identifying the role of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in the energy transition process.

CCUS is a hot topic today in the field of energy with some experts arguing that it has no place in the energy transition process while for others it is essential to its success.

Three speakers from the IEF, IOGP and Eni set up the scene of what means CCUS in Europe and in the Mediterranean region, reviewing different CCUS projects. They agreed that CCUS is not a concept but a reality. CCUS has an important role to play in decarbonisation and hydrogen economy but its deployment is necessary. Indeed, CCUS plays a role in all decarbonisation scenario of the main international organisations. But more needs to be done on several fronts, including supporting investments, funding mechanisms, regulatory framework (for instance, a comprehensive EU framework to support development of CCUS projects at scale is still missing) and increasing dialog and cooperation. Costs are expected to decrease further as a result of learning by doing and technology breakthroughs. And carbon utilisation is one "pilar" of CCUS that should not be neglected.