UfM Gas Platform Newsletter

Issue #23 – March 2023

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UfM Gas Platform website online at
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Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

2023 marks the start of the next Action of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Gas Platform covering the period 2023-2025. The programme of work was designed to support the successful implementation of the last UfM Joint Ministerial Declaration, issued during the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy on 14 June 2021, to address the region's energy challenges and its roadmap.

UfM Member States reaffirmed in the Declaration the need and willingness to join efforts for a just and fair transition towards circular, low emissions, inclusive, resilient, sustainable resource and energy efficient economies and societies, by taking into account national circumstances. To this end the present action identified a series of key themes to be covered in the future work programme of the UfM Gas Platform.

– Mediterranean Energy Scenarios;
– Role of gases fuel and hydrogen in the Mediterranean area;
– Enhance renewable energy integration;
– The role of gas in Mediterranean energy transition and supply security;
– Offshore (marine) renewable energies in the Mediterranean.

As was the case in previous years, working groups with relevant stakeholders will be established. Dedicated technical meetings, workshops and capacity building sessions related to the studies will be organized by the OME, as UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, to support this work programme.

Cooperation is essential to ensure the sustainable development of the region. The Ministerial Declaration and the Roadmap have been moments to strengthening ties between all stakeholders and more common actions between stakeholders and the three UfM Energy Platforms are needed and envisaged.

Advisory Board meeting of MEP 2023

On 6 March 2023, the Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2023 - Advisory Board Meeting took place to help define the bases of the OME energy scenarios for MEP 2023 special COP 28 edition. It also

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.

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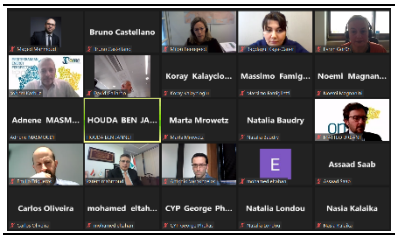
aimed at developing a framework to tackle technology issues such as hydrogen, electricity storage, nuclear, energy security, and the circular economy issues amongst others.

UfM Gas Platform coordination meeting

As Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, the OME organized **on 30 March 2023** through video conferencing, a coordination meeting. The aim of the meeting was to summarise, to the UfM Gas Platform members, the activities carried on in 2022 and discuss plans for 2023 and further.



The programme of work of the next Action for the period 2023-2025 is based on the UfM Roadmap for Action on Energy which was prepared in light of the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration on Energy.

Within that period, new themes will be addressed (see above) and several studies, initiated during the previous action (2020-2022), will be updated (namely, the role of gas/LNG, energy security risks, importance of South Med. gas, etc, including the Gas Infrastructure database). The joint carbon neutral scenario for the Mediterranean will be revised as well with additional features based on the Advisory Board discussions.

The meeting was also an opportunity for the introduction of the first working group of the new Action on "the role of gases fuel and hydrogen in the Mediterranean area".

Upcoming events

On 17 April 2023, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform will launch through videoconference a new working group dedicated to "The role of gases fuel and hydrogen in the Mediterranean area". The studies, that will be prepared within this task, will look at the key benefits, barriers and uncertainties as well as relevant challenges for the role of gases fuel and hydrogen in Mediterranean energy transition. They will focus mainly on the South Mediterranean countries as several topics that constitute this task have already been well studied for the EU countries. The aim of the meeting is to discuss and fix the contents of the reports within the UfM Gas Platform 2023 activities.

On 3 and 4 May 2023, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean will organise, in Barcelona, its Annual meeting of the three UfM Energy Platforms (dealing with electricity markets, renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas in the Mediterranean region). This meeting will be of high importance to analyse the state of play of the implementation of the UfM Roadmap for Action on Energy. Moreover, the three UfM Energy Platforms will share the implementation status of their respective Work Program activities, and will present their Work Programs for 2023.

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