UfM Gas Platform Newsletter

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UfM Gas Platform website online at https://www.ufmgasplatform.org/

Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

During the quarter, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform accelerated the implementation of the next Action (2023-2025) of the Platform with the launch on 17 April 2023 of a new working group, dedicated to "The role of gases fuel and hydrogen in the Mediterranean area". This theme is one of the key themes to be covered in the future work programme, and is comprised of four sub groups/studies:

- on the role of gases fuel for achieving a sustainable low carbon transport system;
- on a hydrogen partnership between the Med. and the EU;
- on the development of the hydrogen market in the Med. region; and
- on repurposing the natural gas infrastructure to accommodate Hydrogen.

These studies 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 lot have already been well studied for the EU countries. The meeting aimed at discussing and fixing the contents of the reports as well as initiating the drafting process of the reports.

The Secretariat also 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 and meetings (see below).



Annual meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean organised **on 3 and 4 May 2023,** in Barcelona, the Annual meeting of the three UfM Energy Platforms (dealing with electricity markets, renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas in the Mediterranean region). During two days, UfM Member States' representatives as well as regional energy sector stakeholders analysed the state of play of the implementation of the UfM Roadmap for Action on Energy,

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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which was prepared in light of the recommendations of the Ministerial Declaration on Energy, issued on the occasion of the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy on 14 June 2021. Moreover, the three UfM Energy Platforms shared the implementation status of their respective Work Program activities, and presented their Work Programs for 2023.

The OME, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, also shared some insights from the last COP27 in Egypt, and the expectations for the next COP28 in Dubai in December 2023. It also presented an overview of the most important factors and uncertainties likely to affect the Mediterranean energy trends over the next 30 years under two scenarios (a reference scenario and a net-zero carbon emissions scenario), as released in the last issue of OME Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2022.

Workshop on the role of LNG in the Euro-Med. gas supply security



The OME, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform and with the support of the European Commission, organised a workshop on "the role of LNG in the Euro-Mediterranean gas supply security" in Paris **on 15 June 2023.** The meeting discussed the role of LNG in general and LNG trade, in particular, in the Euro-Med. gas supply security, regional infrastructure development projects as well as new uses of LNG. About 60 delegates, online or in person, from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea contributed to the success of the event.

The workshop, held under the Chatham House Rule, delivered several key messages. First of all, LNG is a pillar of natural gas supply security and will play a key role in meeting the EU's gas needs. However, the uncertainties concerning future natural gas import needs and the current market design in Europe prevent the stakeholders to make commitments in terms of long term contracts. These uncertainties result from the divergences about the role and durability of natural gas as a transition fuel and the strength of climate ambition. This has also huge impact on investments and securing financing requirements, which are, however, necessary as additional LNG capacities are required to meet estimated future demand.

Last but not least, the gas crisis in the EU is not over. Growing LNG competition between Asia and Europe is expected, and there are risks to satisfy the required LNG needs of the EU in a tight market over the next few years. In this sense, the Mediterranean region, particularly the Eastern Mediterranean, has a big potential to help reduce the supply security risk of the EU. There is a growing need to intensify the cooperation between the north and the south Mediterranean, supported by new infrastructures, harmonized regulations and long-term commitments.

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