UfM Gas Platform Newsletter

Issue #26 – December 2023

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

Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

The OMEC (formerly OME), as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, organized two events in December with the support of the European Commission to complete 2023. The meetings, held at OMEC premises in Paris and online, gave an opportunity to all actors of the gas chain to hear from policy makers and industry on the key challenges, benefits and opportunities for strengthening and deepening cooperation and collaboration on energy and natural gas issues. During the gathering, experts pointed out that natural gas will continue to play a critical role in the decarbonization process, ensuring security of supply along the process.

From 30 November to 12 December 2023, OMEC actively contributed to the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), which took place in Dubai under the Presidency of the United Arab Emirates. It (co-)organised several side events to deliver expert analysis, data, policy advice and proposed solutions to bolster efforts to tackle climate change issues in the Mediterranean region as well as to raise awareness and outreach of platform's activities to a larger public.

On the occasion, it also officially launched OMEC's flagship publication, Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2023 edition – MEP 2023, including the net-zero scenario co-funded by the European Union, on 2 December at the IFDD Pavilion (side-event on *technologies and regional Mediterranean cooperation to foster carbon neutrality 2050*). Participants discussed the trajectories and technologies to be deployed in the Mediterranean basin to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, and the importance of regional cooperation in this perspective. MEP results were also presented at several other meetings during COP; at the Turkish Pavilion on *how to understand and adopt climate change from the perspective of MUSIAD members,* and at the Mediterranean Coalition Office on *energy transition in the Mediterranean and Africa: Needs and perspectives.*

In parallel, in line with its work programme, the Secretariat maintained its research efforts progressing on the drafting and

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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circulation of several studies. In October, it circulated a draft version of the report titled "*Natural gas trade among the South Mediterranean countries*" to the WG members for their comments. Two other draft reports on "*repurposing the gas infrastructure to accommodate hydrogen*" and on "*the role and importance of south Med. gas in European energy security*" were circulated in November among WG members.

In addition, the Secretariat of the Platform circulated the final version of the report "*The role of LNG in the Euro-Mediterranean gas supply security*" in October, incorporating all the comments received by the Gas Platform members. Furthermore, an updated version of the UfM Gas Platform infrastructure database was also circulated in December 2023 to WG members.

Mediterranean Energy Scenarios Experts meeting



On 4 October 2023, OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, organized, at its headquarters in Paris and via Zoom, a Mediterranean Energy Scenarios Experts meeting to review and finalize a most representative and ambitious net-zero energy scenario for the Mediterranean. This net-zero carbon emissions scenario for the Mediterranean, which the OMEC is developing in co-operation with the European Commission, meets all NDCs and announced net-zero pledges on time and in full for all Mediterranean countries.

During the meeting, experts from all around the Mediterranean shared their views and expertise to help calibrate the scenarios and draw pertinent messages.

UfM Energy Platforms Coordination meeting

On 13 November 2023, the UfM Secretariat organised an online coordination meeting for the interim review of the implementation of the UfM Roadmap for Action on Energy. The Roadmap for Action, adopted by UfM Member States in 2022, provides a clear framework for implementing the commitments outlined in the UfM Energy Declaration. Its focus lies on key areas such as energy efficiency, climate investment improvement, regional electricity interconnections, and knowledge exchange.

Mediterranean Energy Perspectives to 2050



On 14 December 2023, the OMEC, with the support of the European Commission, organized in Paris a capacity building session providing an overview of the most important factors and uncertainties likely to affect the Mediterranean energy trends over the next 30 years under two different scenarios. It followed the launch, during the COP28 in Dubai, of OMEC's flagship publication, Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2023.

OMEC experts presented the two scenarios of MEP 2023 which explore different pathways for the Mediterranean energy system to 2050, taking into account the impact of the recent energy crisis

in its prognoses. For this outlook, OMEC has updated its Reference Scenario as a base scenario and an alternative scenario co-funded by the European Commission, the ProMED "Net Zero Carbon" Scenario, incorporating the latest country long term strategies and where all Mediterranean countries reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

Regardless of the scenario, the South Mediterranean countries will increase their energy demand through 2050 and will overtake the North Mediterranean demand by the end of this decade. Decarbonization would lead to a significant shift away from traditional hydrocarbons (oil, natural gas and coal) towards non-fossil fuels, led by renewable energy. In the ProMED Scenario, both oil and coal would be nearly totally displaced by 2050. Achieving carbon neutrality for the Mediterranean region would not only involve a significant further acceleration in the deployment of clean energy technologies over the next 30 years, with wind and solar as pillars of decarbonation, but would also require the implementation of stringent energy efficiency policies & measures, including major behavioural changes, as well as strengthened cooperation at regional level.

About 60 delegates, via Zoom or in person, participated in the two events

Workshop on the role of gas in a just energy transition

Still on 14 December 2023 and in cooperation with the European Commission, the Secretariat of the Platform, organized a workshop where participants debated the role of gas in a just energy transition. Held in Paris, at OMEC premises, the workshop gathered delegates, via Zoom or in person, from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea.



Experts pointed out that gaseous fuels will continue to play a critical role in the decarbonization process, ensuring security of supply along the process. Transition to clean energies is on its way but much more needs to be done to bring fossil fuels demand down in ways that meet national and global climate goals. In this sense, natural gas, green and low-carbon gases, as well as hydrogen, have an important potential and their development is expected to be fast.

The EU has embarked in a trajectory towards carbon neutrality by 2050. While in the short term imports of natural gas should remain important, in the longer run, reduction of methane emissions is needed for imports of gas to the EU to be maintained. But the EU strategy can become fully effective only if its closest neighbours follow a similar path. Participants agreed that this requires strengthened cooperation at regional level and between public and private sectors. More integrated Mediterranean energy markets are necessary in order to encourage and facilitate investments and increase the flow of gas from the South Mediterranean region into the EU.

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