UfM Gas Platform Newsletter

Issue #30 – December 2024

Inside this Issue

p1 Message from Secretariat

p2 Conference on maritime decarbonization scenarios in the Med.

p2 OMEC @ COP29

p3 Mediterranean Energy Perspectives to 2050

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

Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

During the last quarter of 2024, OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen (formerly UfM Gas Platform), pursued its efforts to support the work programme of the platform and to raise awareness and outreach of platform's activities to a larger public, by (co-)organising, participating in several (virtual) meetings and side-events with ministries, institutions and industry actors in the Mediterranean.

On 8 October, in Paris, it organised a joint conference with the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF) on how to decarbonise the maritime sector in the Mediterranean. From 11 to 22 November, it (co-)organised several side events during the COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. And on 16 December, OMEC presented the preliminary results of the next OMEC Mediterranean Energy Perspectives to 2050 (see below).

These workshops and training sessions allow networking, capacity building, exchange of information and best practices, improve awareness, and build confidence among all actors of the gas sector in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The OMEC, the EC, the UfM Secretariat and the Secretariats of the two other energy platforms (REM & REEE) coordinated and exchanged on several occasions to review the implementation of the UfM Roadmap for Action on Energy, adopted by UfM Member States in 2022. On 27 November 2024, in an online UfM Energy Platforms coordination meeting, they initiated discussions on the new roadmap for action and gathered input on what Member States would like to see implemented. The new roadmap would be presented in 2025 during the Annual meeting of the three UfM Energy Platforms. Its focus lies on key areas such as energy efficiency, climate investment improvement, regional electricity interconnections, and knowledge exchange.

In parallel, in line with its work programme, the Secretariat of the Platform maintained its research efforts progressing on the drafting and circulation of several deliverables. The final version of the report

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**

The UfM Gas Platform Quarterly Newsletter was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

"The role of LNG in the Euro-Mediterranean gas supply security" was circulated in November 2024, incorporating all the comments received by the Gas Platform members. In December, the Secretariat circulated a draft version of the report titled "*Role of natural gas for achieving a sustainable low carbon transport system*" to the WG members for their comments. The report examines a deeper use of gaseous fuels in the mobility sector in the Euro-Mediterranean Region. It also analyses challenges, benefits, economic and collaboration opportunities. Still in December, an updated version of the UfM Gas Platform infrastructure database was also circulated to WG members, including for the first time data on hydrogen storage and pipelines.

Conference on maritime decarbonization scenarios in the Mediterranean

On 8 October 2024, in Paris, OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen (formerly UfM Gas Platform), and the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF) convened a joint conference to explore a more sustainable future for maritime activities in the Mediterranean. The event, held with the support of the European Commission, brought together key stakeholders to present, discuss and develop feasible decarbonization strategies tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities of the Mediterranean maritime sector. Over 80 delegates, online or in person, from institutions and the industry from all the Euro-Mediterranean region contributed to the success of the event.

Over 80 delegates, via Zoom or in person, participated in the conference



Participants addressed the urgent need to decarbonise the Mediterranean and enhance energy security. Net-zero targets can only be achieved through a holistic view of energy systems, and strategic and regulatory alignment across the Mediterranean. A combined policy and technology approach emerged as essential. Insightful presentations and discussions indicated that while consumption of petroleum products will likely constitute majority of maritime fuel consumption, LNG seems the most viable option to decarbonise the shipping sector in the short to mid-term. Afterwards, low/zero carbon fuels mainly driven by ammonia, methanol and other synthetic fuels will likely gain traction and dominate maritime energy use.

Nonetheless, significant challenges persist, including competition for alternative fuels among different transport modes and the need for substantial investment in infrastructure. Regional cooperation was a frequent theme of the discussions.

OMEC @ COP29

From 11 to 22 November 2024, OMEC actively contributed to the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), which took place in Baku under the Presidency of the Azerbaijan. 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.

OMEC's participation at COP 29 included among others: A side event on fugitive emissions co-organised with GSE on 12 November at the Italian Pavilion, and another side event on the T-Med initiative, organized in collaboration with the UfM Secretariat and the EU on 15 November at the Mediterranean Pavilion. Preliminary results of MEP 2025 were also presented at a side-event hosted by TTU on 16 November at the Tunisian Pavilion.

Mediterranean Energy Perspectives to 2050

On 16 December 2024, the OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen and with the support of the European Commission, presented the preliminary results of the next OMEC Mediterranean Energy Perspectives to 2050. Organized in a capacity building session format, the online meeting aimed at providing an overview of the most important factors and uncertainties likely to affect the Mediterranean energy trends over the next two three decades under two scenarios (a reference scenario and a net-zero carbon emissions scenario co-funded by the European Commission where all Mediterranean countries reach carbon neutrality by 2050), as well as exchanging with participants on those preliminary results and the path towards decarbonising the region. Nearly 40 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea actively engaged with OMEC analysts and modelers ensuring the success of the event.



A clear divide exists between the North and the South energy demand trends, reflecting in part differences in population growth. In the North, energy demand is already on a decreasing trend, driven by slower population growth and already rigorous energy efficiency policies in place. However, in the South, energy demand is on the rise, driven by a rapidly growing population. Decarbonization would lead to a significant shift away from traditional hydrocarbons (oil, natural gas and coal) towards renewables and non-fossil energy sources. Nevertheless, natural gas will continue to play a critical role in the decarbonization process, ensuring security of supply along the process. But reaching current climate targets requires a much faster transition to renewables than current trends suggest. This will also require stringent energy efficiency policies and measures, including significant behavioural changes, and strengthened regional cooperation.

Contact Us

Gas Platform Secretariat:
Dr. Houda Ben Jannet
houda.allal@omec-med.org

Newsletter:
M. Bruno Castellano
bruno.castellano@omec-med.org

Euro-Med

Pipeline

Natural Gas

Trade

Security

Perspectives

LNG

Gas Hubs

Storage

UfM Gas Platform

Transition

Supply Demand

Cooperation

Investments

Sustainability

Capacity building

Mediterranean Sea

ome

This project is funded by The European Union

www.ufmgasplatform.org