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 first quarter of 2025, OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen (formerly UfM Gas Platform), continued its research efforts progressing on the drafting of several studies. In March, it distributed the final version of the report on "the role of gases fuels for achieving a sustainable low carbon transport system", incorporating all the comments received by the Gas Platform members.

The new edition of the Mediterranean Energy Perspectives (MEP) 2025 will be released in spring (see below). In this context, OMEC organised in January a Mediterranean Energy Scenarios Experts meeting to introduce the scenarios for the next edition and present the preliminary results. The meeting was an important opportunity to exchange on the trajectories and technologies to be deployed in the Mediterranean basin to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. OMEC also organised in March a webinar on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus to address pressing environmental challenges in the Mediterranean.

In line with its work programme, the Secretariat also maintained a concrete and effective dissemination of the information about the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen and its activities to a larger public through its dedicated website and participation in meetings. These 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.

Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2025

To be released in spring 2025, the new edition of the Mediterranean Energy Perspectives (MEP) 2025 proposes a comprehensive outlook on the region's energy landscape through 2050. MEP 2025 explores updated Net-Zero and Reference scenarios, outlining pathways for governments, companies, and citizens to achieve decarbonization and limit global warming to 1.5°C.

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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On 27 January 2025, OMEC organised a Mediterranean Energy Scenarios Experts Meeting to review and finalize the results of the Reference and Net-Zero scenarios, to help define and draw main conclusions, and to discuss the key messages to be carried-out for the MEP 2025. The participants explored the scenarios from multiple angles, offering valuable technical feedback and proposing alternative approaches to ensure the final publication reflects the complexity and diversity of the region's energy future.

This new edition of MEP will take into consideration the nexus Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) in its outlooks. Energy production impacts water, food, and ecosystems, while climate change and environmental degradation affect energy availability. Therefore, OMEC organised **on 13 March 2025** a webinar on the topic in collaboration with MedECC.

The discussions emphasized the need for cross-sectoral collaboration and highlighted how isolated technical solutions can negatively impact other components of the WEFE nexus. A key concern raised was the projected reduction in energy availability, particularly in hydropower, due to water scarcity, stressing the need for more accurate energy forecasts. The Mediterranean region is considered particularly at risk for intense climate episodes such as drought and flooding.

Regional cooperation, long-term commitments and more capacity-building initiatives were recurring themes of the discussions in both meetings. The Mediterranean region must foster strong, long-term partnerships within to sustain its energy transition. Net-Zero targets can only be achieved through a holistic view of energy systems, and strategic and regulatory synergies across the Mediterranean.

Upcoming event

In June 2025, OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen and in cooperation with the European Commission, will hold its Annual UfM Gas Platform Conference in Cairo, Egypt. The conference will aim at exploring the future of gas in the Mediterranean and its crucial role in the region's energy transition. It will offer a platform for policymakers, industry experts, and institutions to exchange insights on the challenges, benefits, opportunities, and enablers that support a just, secure, affordable, and sustainable energy future highlighting the pivotal role of gas in achieving these goals.

A working group meeting will also take place back-to-back with the conference to discuss the future work programme of the Platform.

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