Union for the Mediterranean
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WG on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen

Newsletter

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UfM working group website online at
https://www.ufmgasplatform.org/

Message from the Secretariat

During the second quarter of 2025, OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM working group (WG) on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen (formerly UfM Gas Platform), continued its efforts to support the working group's work programme, advocate its role among decision-makers as well as to raise awareness and disseminate the working group's activities to a wider audience, by (co-)organising and participating in several (virtual) meetings and side events with ministries, institutions and industry actors in the Mediterranean.

In April and May, OMEC, as Secretariat of the WG on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen, participated in several (online) meetings with the European Commission and the UfM Secretariat to develop a new monitoring framework – the Interim Regional Action Plan for Energy (IRAP) – for the period from 2025 to 2027. The meetings were also an opportunity to discuss current activities of the WG and the next program of work which will run for four years (2026-2029).

On 23 May, OMEC met with Mr. Stefano Sannino, Director-General of DG MENA at the European Commission, at its premises in Paris. The visit of Mr, Saninno to OMEC provided an opportunity to present the role of OMEC as Secretariat of the WG as well as ongoing activities. Discussions also addressed the evolving regional energy landscape, including key opportunities, challenges, and future prospects. Mr. Sannino shared valuable insights into the work of DG MENA and its efforts to deepen dialogue with countries across the region, particularly in the context of the forthcoming New Pact for the Mediterranean.

On 16 June, in Cairo, OMEC organised the annual conference of the WG with the theme of 'navigating the energy transition: The future of gas in the Mediterranean'. The next day, on 17 June, OMEC organised a coordination meeting of the WG to exchange with all stakeholders about the future program of work (see below).

These (virtual) meetings and conference allow networking, capacity building, exchange of information and best practices, improve

The UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen (formerly 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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awareness, and build confidence among all actors of the gas sector in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Annual conference of the UfM working group in Cairo

On 16 June 2025, the OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen (formerly UfM Gas Platform) and in cooperation with the European Commission, held its annual conference of the WG in Cairo, Egypt. The event was hosted by OMEC member EGAS under the patronage of the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

Over 60 delegates, via Zoom or in person, participated in the conference

The conference brought together over 60 industry leaders, and institutional stakeholders from across the Euro-Mediterranean region —both in person and online— to examine the evolving role of gaseous fuels —including natural gas, biogas, biomethane, and hydrogen— in the region's energy transition.

Speakers emphasized that while the importance of gas is gradually declining, it remains important for balancing renewable energy, maintaining industrial production, and ensuring energy system reliability. Discussions also highlighted the need for emissions reduction, investment in low-carbon technologies, and enhanced regional cooperation.



Speakers also pointed to the emerging potential of renewable hydrogen (in the longer term), especially in the South Mediterranean countries. However, they also highlighted persistent infrastructure, regulatory, and financing challenges. They called for a coordinated regulatory framework to support both international and bilateral cooperation in the hydrogen sector.

There was a general consensus on the importance of pursuing decarbonization while ensuring regional energy security and resilience. The establishment of a dedicated Directorate-General for the MENA region within the European Commission will strengthen Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, also via a Trans-Mediterranean Energy and Clean Tech Initiative (T-Med) under the New Pact for the Mediterranean.

Nonetheless, significant challenges persist, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 will require not only reducing reliance on fossil fuels—but also major investments in infrastructure, technological innovation, and cross-border cooperation.

Coordination meeting of the UfM working group

Back-to-back with the annual conference on 16 June, OMEC, organized a coordination meeting of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen **on 17 June** in Cairo, Egypt.

The meeting focused on the future work program of the working group. OMEC presented key topics for the next four years (2026-2029). The initiative no longer addresses natural gas issues only, but also includes topics related to hydrogen and emissions abatement. Inputs from member countries will help to refine the program, identify priorities, and ensure it meets regional needs



Moreover, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) presented to the WG members its flagship oil and gas reporting and mitigation programme; The Oil & Gas Methane Partnership 2.0 (OGMP 2.0). This initiative aims at improving the accuracy and transparency of methane emissions reporting in the oil and gas industry. The importance of the standard and frameworks UNEP has defined was highlighted as they underpin EU methane regulations. It affects particularly gas exports from North Africa, which need to meet this standard to reach Europe.

Annual meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms

The second Mediterranean Green Week convened by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) aimed at fostering collaboration on climate adaptation and mitigation, environmental sustainability, resilient infrastructure, Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus, and inclusive green energy transition across the Euro-Mediterranean region. Taking place in Brussels **from 24 to 27 June 2025,** this second edition brought together representatives from UfM Member States—alongside civil society, youth, experts and private sector actors—to advance shared solutions to the region's pressing environmental and climate challenges.



UfM Regional Platforms meetings were planned **on 26 June** to discuss the respective Work Program activities of the three UfM working groups on energy (dealing with electricity markets, renewable energy, energy efficiency and gaseous fuels in the Mediterranean region). During the session on the activities related to gas, OMEC presented current activities of the working group as well as the activities and topics planned for the next program of work which will run from 2026 to 2029.

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