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

To conclude 2025 and the 2023-2025 work program of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen (formerly UfM Gas Platform), OMEC, as the secretariat of the working group, organized several events in cooperation with the European Commission (see below).

The meetings, held in person in Paris and online, gave an opportunity to all stakeholders of the working group and actors of the gas chain in the Mediterranean region to hear from policy makers and industry on the critical importance of collaboration, innovation, and strategic partnerships in energy matters. The establishment of the new Directorate-General for Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA) of the European Commission signals a renewed commitment to regional stability, sustainability, and cooperation. This momentum is further strengthened by the Pact for the Mediterranean, which was launched on 28 November 2025, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process. With its expanded scope to address issues on renewable and low-carbon gases as well as clean technologies and emissions abatement, the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen is uniquely placed to support this renewed spirit of cooperation and shared ambition.

During the meetings, experts agreed on the importance of encouraging decarbonization, and also recognized that gaseous fuels are important tools for the success of the ongoing energy transition in the Mediterranean.

In December, the Secretariat of the working group also circulated the draft versions of two reports to the WG members for their comments. The first report, "the energy security risks and mitigation options" revisits energy security at a time when global geopolitical rivalry, energy transition, and digital transformation have created new vulnerabilities for the Mediterranean. The second report, "the role of gas in the Mediterranean energy transition", examines the opportunities, barriers and uncertainties associated with the role of fossil gas and clean gases in the Mediterranean energy transition.

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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Last, during this quarter, OMEC continued its efforts to advocate the role of the working group among decision-makers as well as to raise awareness and disseminate its activities to a wider audience by participating in several meetings and side events with ministries, institutions and industry actors in the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean Energy Perspectives to 2050

On 3 December 2025, 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 results of the latest edition of OMEC Mediterranean Energy Perspectives to 2050 (MEP 2025) released in June 2025. Organized in a capacity building session format, the online meeting provided an overview of the most important factors and uncertainties likely to affect the Mediterranean energy trends over the next 25 years under two scenarios; a reference scenario and a net-zero carbon emissions scenario. The event brought together about 30 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea, who actively engaged with OMEC analysts and modelers ensuring the success of the event.

Mediterranean region has a credible and achievable path toward a more secure, competitive, and sustainable energy future

Discussions included projections for energy supply and demand up to 2050, as well as the implications of population growth and economic trends on the region's energy needs. The team also examined energy dependence patterns, CO2 emissions trajectories, and the current and future outlook for oil and natural gas exploration and production. Other significant topics addressed were the evolving role of gas in balancing energy security and decarbonization, advancements in renewable energy, and the increasing role of electrification and interconnectivity in the Mediterranean energy landscape.

Workshop on CCS in the Mediterranean region

On 15 December 2025, in its new premises in Paris, the OMEC, as Secretariat of the UfM working group on Gas, Emissions Abatement and Hydrogen and in cooperation with the European Commission, organized a workshop on carbon capture and storage (CCS) within the framework of the 2023-25 Program of Work of the working group. The event aimed at providing an overview of policies and practices related to CCS in the Euro-Mediterranean region, perspectives, challenges, opportunities, and at giving insights on key projects. About 40 delegates, online or in person, from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea contributed to the success of the event.



Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) involves capturing CO_2 emissions from industrial sources or power plants, transporting it via pipelines or ships, and injecting it into deep geological formations—typically saline aquifers or depleted oil and gas reservoirs—where it is permanently trapped under impermeable cap rock layers. This technology is a critical bridge in the global

energy transition, enabling the continued use of fossil fuels in hard-to-abate sectors while preventing emissions from entering the atmosphere.

Annual conference of the UfM working group in Paris

On 16 December 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 working group on the theme "the role of gaseous fuels in balancing the energy trilemma". The event, hosted at the historic Le Meurice Hotel in Paris, France, brought together over 80 industry leaders and institutional stakeholders from across the Euro-Mediterranean region —both in person and online— to discuss the state of the Mediterranean energy system and how gaseous fuels —including natural gas, biogas, biomethane, and hydrogen— may contribute to the impending energy transition.

Over 80 delegates, online or in person, participated in the conference

Speakers highlighted the high stakes of the energy transition in the Mediterranean, a region warming 20% faster than the global average as a result of climate change. They explored challenges facing the region, including infrastructure needs, investment gaps, and how gaseous fuels have an important role to play in balancing energy security, sustainability and affordability. As the Mediterranean region transitions to a more sustainable energy mix, they provide flexibility and grid support while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, it was also recalled that reducing methane emissions is an integral part of the energy transition and is necessary to maintain natural gas in the EU.



Speakers also emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, policy support, and financial instruments to overcome barriers to clean energy deployment. The conference highlighted the need for balanced energy policies that consider both immediate energy security needs and long-term sustainability goals.

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