

Inside this Issue

p1 Message from Secretariat

p1 About UfM Energy Platforms

p2 Kick-off WGs meetings

p2 2nd WGs meetings

p2 Forthcoming Events

Launch of two thematic studies planned in the WP

Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

For the first part of 2017, one of the priorities of the EC and the UfM was to facilitate communication and information among all stakeholders of the UfM Gas Platform and launch first activities. In that sense, focal points among most of the Platform members were identified during the first months of the year; a first issue of a periodic newsletter on the Gas Platform activities was drafted; and a beta version of a dedicated website was developed to communicate the platform activities.

For the second part of the year, the focus was on the thematic studies planned in the work programme. The OME, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, organised on 15 September 2017 in Paris the kick-off meetings of the first two UfM Gas Platform Working Groups. The meetings aimed for the studies “An Advisory assessment of the existing and future gas supply-demand balance in the Euro-Mediterranean region” and “The role of LNG in European-Mediterranean gas supply security”. On 29 November 2017, another working group meeting for the two thematic studies was held in Rome, hosted by Edison. During the meeting first draft reports for each study were presented and discussed by all participants.

Since the endorsement of the work programmes of the three UfM platforms in Rome, on 1 December 2016, at the UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy, the implementation phase started. As briefly explained, several tasks have been initiated in 2017 and an acceleration of activity of the Gas Platform is expected in 2018.

About the UfM Energy Platforms

On **18 and 19 May 2017**, the UfM organized an Informal High Level Meeting on Energy Efficiency in the Mediterranean, in La Valetta, Malta, under the auspices of the EU Maltese Presidency together with the Co-Presidencies of the UfM. During the meeting, a session was dedicated to the state of play of the three UfM Energy Platforms. OME General Director, Houda Allal, participated in the session and updated participants on the state of play of the Gas Platform and next activities proposed for 2017.

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 soon at: ufmgasplatform.org



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Kick-off meetings of first two UfM Gas Platform Working Groups

First two UfM Gas Platform Working Groups launched on 15 September 2017



On 15 September, the OME, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, organised at its premises in Paris the kick-off meetings of the first two UfM Gas Platform Working Groups. They aimed for the studies “An Advisory assessment of the existing and future gas supply-demand balance in the Euro-Mediterranean region” and “The role of LNG in European-Mediterranean gas supply security”, respectively deliverables 1.1 and 2.2 within the approved Platform work programme.

The meetings gathered more than 25 delegates from institutions and the industry, from both shores of the Mediterranean. They all contributed to vibrant discussions (under the Chatham House Rule) and participated to the success of the event.

The final outline and repartition of efforts for the two above mentioned studies were agreed on during the meetings. Both studies are performed and drafted in a voluntary and collaborative way by various contributors.

Second wave of UfM Gas Platform Working Groups meetings

Draft reports for studies 1.1 and 2.2 presented to all stakeholders



On 29 November, a second set of Working Group meetings for the two studies 1.1 and 2.2 was organised in Rome to discuss progress and next steps. The Gas Platform Secretariat and GIE, coordinators for studies 1.1 and 2.2 respectively, presented draft reports for each study.

The plan is to submit a draft final report for both studies to the UfM co-presidency for comments and approval by the end of March 2018. Dissemination of the studies could take place one month later in April 2018, once final reports are approved.

The Working Group meetings, hosted by Edison, were organised back-to-back with the International Workshop “The grand energy transition: North Africa, the Gulf and Europe” organized by Aspen Institute and WEC Italy. Gas Platform members participated in the event as delegates or speakers.

Forthcoming events

On **31 January – 1 February 2018**, in Barcelona, the UfM Energy Platforms annual meeting will give the opportunity to present the deliverables and the implementation status of the activities of the three platforms included in the Work Program 2017 as well as to present the anticipated activities for 2018.

On **14 March 2018**, in Algiers, a workshop on natural gas demand/supply scenarios in the Euro-Mediterranean region is scheduled. The event will be hosted by Sonatrach and should take place back-to-back with the working group meeting under thematic study 1.1 to discuss the final report.

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