

## Inside this Issue

*p1 Message from Secretariat*

*p1 Platforms annual meeting*

*p2 Workshop in Algiers*

*p2 WG meeting*

*p2 Calendar of activities*

## Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

The OME, as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, welcomes the acceleration of the activities of the platform since the beginning of the year.

Drafting of the reports of the two 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” is at an advanced stage. Reports have already been circulated to the respective working group members for their comments and contributions. The first regional workshop within the framework of the platform activities was organized in Algiers in March 2018. Vivid exchanges and discussions between the participants contributed to the success of the event. Other thematic studies, meetings and training workshop are in preparation. This is all further detailed in this newsletter.

Regional cooperation in the gas sector in the Euro-Med. area can deliver important benefits to all parties concerned. It is hoped that the UfM Gas Platform will help strengthen this cooperation.

## UfM Energy Platforms Annual meeting

On **31 January and 1 February 2018**, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) organized a meeting in Barcelona to discuss the status of activities of the three UfM Energy Platforms.

OME General Director, Houda Allal, updated participants on the state of play of the UfM Gas Platform and presented a calendar of activities for 2018 that includes: the organization of workshops and training sessions; the launch of four thematic studies in 2018 and dedicated working group that could be call before the second half of the year; the improvement of the communication and information between stakeholders through the public launch of the Gas Platform website.

Draft reports of the two studies in progress (study 1.1 on gas supply-demand balance and study 2.2 on the role of LNG) were also presented to the participants of the meeting.

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*Launch of four new thematic studies in 2018*

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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](http://ufmgasplatform.org)



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*First regional workshop organised with the framework of the gas platform activities*

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## Regional workshop on Natural Gas Supply-Demand Prospects in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

On 14 March 2018, in Algiers, the Algerian National Oil and Gas Company Sonatrach, and the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME), jointly organized a regional workshop on natural gas supply-demand prospects in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Hosted by Algeria, and with the support of the European Commission and the Algerian Ministry of Energy, the Algiers workshop was organised within the framework of the UfM Gas Platform activities.

Around 40 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea participated in the event. The workshop was a unique occasion to debate around the topics that matter in the natural gas industry today and in the future. In particular, guest speakers exchanged on the growing complexity of the gas market and the role of gas in the Euro-Mediterranean energy market.

As a cleaner, competitive and abundant fossil resource, natural gas will play an important role in satisfying future energy needs in the region, including in the new and niche areas such as transport. The Mediterranean basin offers a portfolio of gas supply sources and transport routes.

## UfM Gas Platform Working Group meeting

On 14 March 2018, the final meeting of the working group devoted to the discussion of the draft final report of the study "Assessment of the existing and future of gas supply and demand balance in the Euro-Mediterranean region" was organized in Algiers back-to-back with the workshop mentioned above.

A presentation of the report was made and working group members discussed next steps in view of its finalization prior to its dissemination to all UfM members for final approval.

## Calendar of activities

On **19 April 2018**, in Marrakech, a workshop on developments and perspectives in the LNG industry will be organized by the OME and the Moroccan Fédération de l'Energie. The event will take place back-to-back with the working group meeting under thematic study 2.2 (the role of LNG in the Euro-Mediterranean region) to discuss the final draft report.

Capacity-building will be stimulated through the organization of specific training sessions on gas-related matters. Awareness raising and outreach activities for a larger public will be boosted through new conferences and meetings as well as the Platform website, and a wide distribution of presentations/reports and press releases.

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*Final draft report for study 1.1 presented to stakeholders*

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