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UfM Gas Platform website
online at

<https://www.ufmgasplatform.org/>

Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

On 13 July 2018, in Paris, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat organized a Steering Committee meeting of the UfM Gas Platform to present and discuss the platform current and planned activities. The meeting also aimed at identifying possible synergies between the three UfM energy platforms. All participants acknowledged the importance of more contacts between the platforms to better organize their work, as well as clarify and manage the expectations from them. Therefore, and following a suggestion of the UfM Co-Presidency, they agreed to organize, on a bi-yearly basis, UfM Energy Platform Stakeholders' coordination meetings. The first one fruitfully took place in Beirut, Lebanon, on 26 September 2018 (see below).

The Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform always pledged for constant collaboration between the three platforms and the major role the platforms can play in today's energy agenda of the Mediterranean region. The strong participation in July's Steering Committee meeting, and the success of the kick-off meeting of the new working group on gas infrastructure (see below) confirm the will by Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders to step up cooperation in the energy sector, and in particular in the gas sector.

The dedicated website of the Gas Platform and the quarterly newsletter are key tools to achieve this overall objective. They communicate, in the most transparent way, Gas Platform activities and outputs to the members and partners of the platform as well as to the broader public. The Secretariat is, therefore, working on their continual development. The website and the most recent issues of the newsletter are now available also in French and Arabic. And the Member Area of the website will be finalized soon.

Kick off meeting UfM Gas Platform Working Group on gas infrastructure

On 26 July 2018, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform organized at OME premises, in Paris, the kick-off meeting of the UfM Gas Platform Working Group dedicated to two studies of the gas

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](https://www.ufmgasplatform.org)



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Platform's approved programme of work that focus on the gas infrastructures in the Euro-Mediterranean region: *"Current status and usage of gas infrastructure in the Euro-Med. region"* and *"Already proposed gas infrastructure projects in the region"*.

The meeting gathered around 20 delegates representing the ministries, institutions and 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. One of the objectives of the meeting was to agree on the structure of a gas infrastructure database that will also be used for the drafting of the above-mentioned studies. The plan is to have the first versions of the database and draft reports to be ready by the end of 2018.

UfM Energy Platform Stakeholders coordination meeting

On 26 September 2018, the first UfM Energy Platform Stakeholders' coordination meeting was held at EU Delegation in Beirut, Lebanon. The meeting aimed at presenting the work accomplished so far by the three UfM Energy Platforms and the activities planned for 2019; launch of working groups (on institutional and regulatory framework, and gas hubs) in November, joint trainings, future joint deliverables in 2019 on the identification of Interconnected Electricity Exchange Zones (IEEZ) and Cross-Border Cost Allocation (CBCA), among other things.

Participants also discussed preparation of the next Annual Meeting of the UfM Energy platforms early 2019 in Barcelona.



Workshop on benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Med. region

From 8 to 11 October 2018, the World Energy Week 2018 (World Energy Council's annual gathering of global energy leaders <https://worldenergyweek2018.org/>) will be held in Milan, Italy. On this occasion, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat is organizing **in the morning of 10 October 2018** a side event on "The benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region".

The International Maritime Organisation's global sulphur cap regulation, which reduces the sulphur content in bunker fuel to 0.5%, will enter into force in January 2020. Driven by both environmental and economic benefits and attractiveness, there is growing interest in and building momentum for LNG as a cleaner, scalable and economic alternative marine fuel.

The side event will be an occasion to hear from the leaders of different sectors on the key benefits, barriers and uncertainties, relevant challenges as well as future development perspectives for the use of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region.

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Session on The Future of Natural Gas Supply and Demand in the Mediterranean region

From 21 to 23 November 2018, the MedaWeek Barcelona 2018 (Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders) will be held in Barcelona. On the occasion, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat is co-organizing with Ascame **on 23 November 2018**, a session on "The Future of Natural Gas Supply and Demand in the Mediterranean".

Today, the Mediterranean region as a whole is a net importer of natural gas. North Africa Mediterranean exports are outweighed by imports in the North and East Mediterranean regions. This is despite the fact that the Mediterranean region holds 4.6% of the world proven natural gas reserves. In the future, the magnitude of the overall net gas trade will depend on the policies formulated today. For this reason, Regional cooperation in the gas sector in the Mediterranean area can deliver important benefits to all parties concerned. This is particularly necessary in Eastern Mediterranean, where recent discoveries present many challenges.

This meeting will give an opportunity to all actors of the gas chain to hear from leaders of different sectors on the main challenges and future development perspectives for the gas supply and demand prospects in the Mediterranean region.

Other past and future events

On 3 July 2018, in Barcelona, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat participated in a EC-METI Workshop on LNG trade transactions and price transparency.

On 17 September 2018, in Brussels, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat met with the DG-ENER of the EC to discuss the platform studies, work in progress and forthcoming gas platform events.

On 6 November 2018, in Paris, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat will join MEDREG Gas Working Group meeting.

On 7 November 2018, at OME offices in Paris, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat will organize the kick-off meeting of the Working Group dedicated to the study on Institutional and regulatory framework (task 3.1 of the approved work programme of the platform).

On 23 November 2018, in Barcelona, the Working Group dedicated to the study on gas hubs (task 3.2 of the approved work programme of the platform) will be launched on the occasion of the MedaWeek Barcelona 2018, back-to-back with the UfM Gas Platform session (see above).

More information available
at
<http://www.medaeconomicweek.org/>

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