

Press Release

Workshop on LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region, Milan, 10 October 2018



Paris, 16 October 2018: in its role of Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME) organized in cooperation with the World Energy Council, a workshop on the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region on 10 October 2018, in Milan. The event took place on the occasion of the World Energy Week 2018 (World Energy Council's annual gathering of global energy leaders) held from 8 to 11 October 2018, and with the support of the European Commission. Around 30 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea participated to the success of this workshop.

In their welcoming remarks, Marco Berti Palazzi (European Commission, representing the Union for the Mediterranean co-presidency), Moncef Harrabi (OME Chairman) and Marco Margheri (Chairman of the OME Gas Platform Task Force) stressed on the exceptional opportunity given by the workshop to hear from 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.

Several guest speakers contributed to the different sessions and stimulated exchanges/discussions between participants. Rosa Antidormi (European Commission)

presented EU policies and initiatives to reduce the ship (air) pollution and the potential/role of LNG as marine fuel; Jarek Kotowski (European Commission) focused on some EU funding programmes implemented for boosting LNG maritime investments; Marco Golinelli (Warstila Italia) discussed the global growing interest in LNG, driven by stricter environmental regulations, as a fuel in the maritime transport; Alessandro Fino (OLT Offshore) focused on the market potential and development of small scale LNG and LNG bunkering; Laura Lapeña (Enagas) discussed the raising awareness of the gas industry concerning the methane emissions issue associated to the use of LNG as marine fuel; Alfonso Vigre Maza (Naturgy) emphasized on the advantages of LNG as the new marine fuel in the Mediterranean region and underlined the importance of infrastructures at the distribution level and steady regulation; and finally Valentina Infante (Edison) presented Edison's view on the importance of LNG in satisfying new needs, including transportation sector.

To conclude the workshop, Marco Berti Palazzi and Houda Ben Jannet Allal (OME General Director), stressed on the growing interest in using LNG as an alternative fuel for shipping thanks to its environmental benefits and commercial attractiveness compared to oil-based fuels. Where implemented, Sulphur Emissions Control Areas (SECAs) have proved very effective in reducing pollution and improving air quality. The Mediterranean region could also benefit from a higher level of environmental protection. However, the designation of a SECA is an intergovernmental negotiation process engaging the concerned bordering countries. If desired, the UfM Gas Platform could be of help in discussing the issue with relevant stakeholders.

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Initiated in Malta in July 2014, confirmed in Rome in November 2014 and launched in June 2015, in Brussels, the objective of the UfM Gas Platform is to enhance the cooperation in the Euro-Med. region between all stakeholders of the gas chain, in a bottom-up approach to improve gas security by identifying barriers and opportunities. The "Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie" (OME) runs the Platform's secretariat in close coordination with the UfM co-presidency.

The UfM Gas Platform is one of the three UfM Energy Platform (The two others are on regional electricity market and on renewable energy and energy efficiency) established by EU Energy Ministers, Ministers of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, and the European Commission to further strengthen regional cooperation in the Mediterranean for ensuring secure, affordable and sustainable energy for the region and beyond.

More information about the UfM Gas Platform available at <https://www.ufmgasplatform.org/>