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## Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

In the last quarter of 2018, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat pursued its efforts in developing research and study activities. In November, the Secretariat organised the kick-off meetings of two new working groups dedicated to gas hub matters, and to institutional and regulatory framework matters. In December, draft final versions of the reports "The role of LNG in the Euro-Mediterranean region" and "An advisory assessment of the existing and future of the gas supply-demand balance in the Euro-Mediterranean region" were sent to respective WG members for their final approval. Next step will be the dissemination of the reports to all UfM Members and to the public.

Last, a gas infrastructure database, prepared by the Secretariat, containing information on pipelines, LNG plants, regasification and gas storage facilities, as well as LNG tankers was sent to WG members for their review and comments. The final version of this database will be the base for drafting the final report on gas infrastructure in the Euro-Med.

In line with the approved work programme, development of studies will continue in 2019 with the production of several draft reports as well as with the soon launch of the last two working groups dedicated to the potential and benefits of common Euro-Mediterranean gas infrastructures, and to an advisory assessment of cooperation among TSOs.

In parallel, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat (co-)organised a series of workshops to support the work programme of the platform and also to raise awareness and outreach of platform's activities to a larger public (see below). Encouraged by the success of those side-events and workshops, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat will pursue its efforts in 2019, starting with the organization of a first UfM Gas Platform annual conference planned in March 2019.

All key activities and events that will deliver the objectives of the UfM Gas Platform Work Programme in 2019 will be presented and discussed in Barcelona on 29-30 January 2019 at the annual meeting of the three UfM Energy Platforms.

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UfM Gas Platform website  
online at

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

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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## Side event on the 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/> ) was held in Milan, Italy. On this occasion, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat organized on 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 compared to oil-based fuels. The Mediterranean region could also benefit from a higher level of environmental protection. Where implemented, Sulphur Emissions Control Areas (SECAs) have proved very effective in reducing pollution and improving air quality.

Around 30 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea participated to the success of this workshop.

## Kick off meeting UfM Gas Platform Working Group on institutional and regulatory framework

In line with the approved work programme, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat launched a working group that will study *the role of a suitable institutional and regulatory framework to promote favourable conditions and foster relevant investments to facilitate the gradual development of gas exchanges in the Mediterranean region.*



The kick-off meeting of the working group took place on 7 November 2018, at OME offices in Paris. The aim was to discuss and fix the content of the study, define the activities, and also have a brainstorming on institutional and regulatory framework related matters.

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. The plan is to have a final draft report to be ready by mid-2019.

## Gas session on "The Future of Natural Gas Supply and Demand in the Mediterranean"

On 23 November 2018, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat co-organised with Ascame a gas session on The Future of Natural Gas Supply and Demand in the Mediterranean. The event took place

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

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on the occasion of the new edition of the Mediterranean economic MedaTalk organised within the framework of the MedaWeek Barcelona 2018 held in Barcelona from 21st to 23rd of November 2018. The meeting was an opportunity for 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. It was divided in two sessions. The first session "Meeting the Scene: Regional Outlooks, Key Challenges & Opportunities" laid down the context for discussion by providing a comprehensive overview of regional trends and developments. The second session "Country Specific Outlooks" delved into the details of the gas sectors in select Mediterranean countries.

Around 30 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea contributed to the success of this gathering.



### **Kick off meeting UfM Gas Platform Working Group on gas hubs**

Back-to-back with the gas session held in Barcelona (see before), the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat launched a new working group dedicated to the study on gas hubs (task 3.2 of the approved work programme of the platform). The meeting gathered delegates from all backgrounds, ministries, institutions and industry, from both shores of the Mediterranean.

Participants had exciting preliminary discussions (under the Chatham House Rule) to fix the future content of this task, define the next activities, and also have a brainstorming on gas hubs related matters. The plan is to have a final draft report to be ready by the end of 2019.

### **Other events**

On 28 January 2019, the second meeting of the UfM Gas Platform WG on institutional and regulatory framework will take place in Barcelona.

On 29-30 January 2019, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) will organize an Annual Meeting of the three UfM Energy Platforms in Barcelona to discuss the status of activities of the three platforms.

OME General Director, Houda Allal, will update participants on the state of play of the UfM Gas Platform and present a calendar of activities for 2019. Final draft reports of the two studies (study 1.1 on gas supply-demand balance and study 2.2 on the role of LNG) will also be presented to the participants of the meeting.

In March 2019, The UfM Gas Platform Secretariat will organize a UfM Gas Platform annual conference on the role of natural gas in the Mediterranean energy transition.

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*Transition*  
*Supply Demand*  
*Cooperation*  
*Investments*  
*Sustainability*  
*Capacity building*  
*Mediterranean Sea*

 

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