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## Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

13 June 2019 will go down as another milestone for the UfM Gas Platform initiative with the organisation of its first Conference. Held at the Hotel Intercontinental Paris Le Grand, in Paris, the conference gathered more than 60 delegates from more than 15 countries. With the active contribution of more than 20 speakers, participants debated on the future of LNG and the role it will play in energy diversification, innovation, and transition in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Top level policy makers and business leaders participating in the event included; HE Tarek El-Molla, Minister of Petroleum of Egypt, Dominique Ristori, Director-General for Energy of the European Commission, Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the UfM Secretariat, and Houda Ben Jannet Allal, UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, Director General of the OME.



UfM Gas Platform website  
online at

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

The success of the first UfM Gas Platform Conference confirm the will by Euro-Mediterranean gas stakeholders to work together and to step up cooperation in the energy sector.

In this second quarter of the year, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat also continued its efforts in further developing study activities, and (co-)organising workshops and side-events to support the work programme of the platform, as well as to raise awareness and outreach of platform's activities to a larger public (see below).

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)



The UfM Gas Platform Quarterly Newsletter was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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*Second draft report to be circulated to WG members in September 2019*

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## Meeting UfM Gas Platform Working Group on institutional and regulatory framework

On 29 April 2019, a meeting of the UfM Gas Platform Working Group dedicated to the study of the gas Platform's approved programme of work on the role of a suitable institutional and regulatory framework in the Euro-Mediterranean region was organised by the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform and hosted in Istanbul by the Turkish Energy Market Regulatory Authority (EMRA).

The meeting aimed at discussing the first draft report prepared by the OME and MedReg as well as new elements of the report (guidelines, conclusions, recommendations, etc.). Delegates from all backgrounds, ministries, institutions and industry, from both shores of the Mediterranean contributed to vibrant discussions (under the Chatham House Rule) and participated to the success of the event. A second draft report is scheduled for September 2019 for distribution to WG members.

## Joint sessions on Small Scale LNG in the Euro-Med. region

On 15-16 May 2019, in Naples, ConferenzaGNL and WEC-Italy organised the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Small Scale LNG Use, Euro-Mediterranean Conference & Expo. The OME, as the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, agreed with WEC-Italy and ConferenzaGNL to jointly organise two sessions on this occasion, on 16 May.

The first session, a round table on "*How to Promote Small Scale LNG Use in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: Opportunities and Prospects*", gathered representatives of national, European and International Institutions as well as of the industry.

The second session was a UfM Gas Platform capacity building session on "*Small scale LNG in the Mediterranean Region*". It focused on the presentation of a background report on "*An overview of small scale LNG: implications for the Euro-Med. area*" prepared for the UfM Gas Platform members, and small scale LNG activities in the Mediterranean region.




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*More than 60 delegates from more than 15 countries participated in the event*

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## 1<sup>st</sup> UfM Gas Platform Conference in Paris

On 13 June 2019, the OME organised, with the support of the European Commission, the first UfM Gas Platform Conference, entitled "*The Role of LNG in Mediterranean Gas Security*". The event took place at the Hotel Intercontinental Paris Le Grand, in Paris, and explored the role LNG will play in the near future in energy diversification, innovation, and transition in the Euro-Mediterranean region. More than 60 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea contributed to the success of this gathering.

Dominique Ristori, Director-General for Energy of the European Commission, Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the UfM

Secretariat, and Houda Ben Jannet Allal, UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, Director General of the OME, all highlighted, in their opening statements, the role of the UfM Gas Platform as the “gathering place of reference” to strengthen regional dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean gas sector.

In the Strategic Debate, HE Tarek El-Molla, Minister of Petroleum of Egypt and Dominique Ristori, shared with the participants the latest developments on Egypt's and EU's energy policies; the importance of natural gas in the energy security/transition of the Mediterranean region; the crucial importance of regional cooperation; and the role of the UfM Gas Platform in facilitating this cooperation.

The conference was also an occasion for all participants to hear about the progress of the UfM Gas Platform and the views of policy makers and industry on the key challenges, benefits and opportunities not only for strengthening and deepening cooperation and collaboration on LNG but also for harvesting business opportunities in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Video interviews of five distinguished speakers are available on the UfM Gas Platform website and prolong the discussions held during the conference.



## Kick off meeting of two new UfM Gas Platform Working Groups

Back-to-back with the UfM Gas Platform Conference held in Paris (see before), the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat launched, at OME premises in Paris, on 14 June 2019, two UfM Gas Platform working groups. The WGs will, respectively, investigate the potential and benefits of common Euro-Med. gas infrastructures (task 2.4 of the approved work programme of the platform), and will provide an advisory assessment whether and how TSOs in the region could beneficially cooperate (task 2.5 of the approved work programme of the platform).

This kick-off meeting of the two WGs gathered around 20 delegates from all backgrounds, 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 meeting aimed at establishing the two working groups dedicated to the above-mentioned tasks, and to determine the structure of the studies. The plan is to have final draft reports to be circulated to WG Members for review by the end of 2019.



## Upcoming event

On 19 July 2019, the OME, as UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, will participate in a Coordination meeting with UfM Energy Platforms' Stakeholders in Lisbon, Portugal. The meeting will also give an opportunity for brainstorming on the preparation of the UfM Energy Ministerial Declaration planned in June 2021 (tbc).

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



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