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Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

Following the launch, on 14 June 2019, of the last two working groups of the UfM Gas Platform that will study respectively *the potential and benefits of common Euro-Mediterranean gas infrastructures*, and *whether and how TSOs in the Mediterranean region could beneficially cooperate*, the OME, as UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, and members of the different WGs intensified their efforts in developing research and study activities.

Members of the working group on institutional and regulatory framework met for the last time, on 25 September, to finalise the draft report prepared by MedReg on *the role of regulatory framework to promote investments for a gradual development of gas interconnections in the Mediterranean region*, and discussed the conclusions to be included in the final report.

Reports on *assessing existing and future gas supply-demand balance in the Euro-Med.* and on *the role of LNG in Euro-Med. gas supply security* (respectively studies 1.1 and 2.2 of the approved work programme) are being updated with new data and forecasts.

Other studies focusing on gas infrastructures in the region are also in progress with the drafting of reports and the update of the Gas Infrastructure database. Last, a draft questionnaire on common Euro-Med. gas infrastructures is at a preparatory stage prior to be circulated among all UfM Members.

In parallel, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat carried on its efforts to raise awareness and outreach of platform's activities to a larger public, and to further improve communication and cooperation with the two other UfM energy platforms. On 19 July 2019, key stakeholders of the different platforms participated in a Stakeholders Coordination meeting to exchange views (on the implementation of each Energy platform's programme of work), and develop synergies.

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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UfM Energy Platform Stakeholders Coordination meeting



On 19 July 2019, the OME, as UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, participated in a Coordination meeting with UfM Energy Platforms' Stakeholders in Lisbon, Portugal. The meeting aimed at discussing on the state of play of the implementation of each UfM Energy Platforms' programme of work and future activities planned. OME also presented possible themes of the future work programme of the UfM Gas Platform for 2020-2022.

The meeting was also an opportunity for exchanging on feasible joint capacity building activities among energy organizations in the Mediterranean, and for brainstorming on the preparation of the UfM Energy Ministerial Declaration planned in June 2021 (tbc).

Meeting of the UfM Gas Platform Working Group on institutional and regulatory framework



On 25 September 2019, the last meeting of the working group on institutional and regulatory framework took place in Paris at CRE premises (the French Energy Regulatory Commission).

During the meeting, WG members discussed the latest version of the report prepared by MedReg on "The role of regulatory framework to promote investments for a gradual development of gas interconnections in the Mediterranean region". Some points to be included in the conclusions were also debated/identified. A final draft is expected to be circulated by end of October to all WG members for approval.

Upcoming events

On 28 October 2019, members of the UfM Gas Platform working group on gas hubs will meet in Paris, at OME premises. On this occasion, a draft report *assessing the conditions for creating and developing gas hubs in the Mediterranean region* will be presented by the main authors to the participants.

On 9-10 December 2019, the OME, in cooperation with the European Commission, will organize, in Paris, a Mediterranean Energy Scenario meeting, with the view to define a common UfM-OME energy scenario.

On 16 December 2019, in Brussels, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, in cooperation with the European Commission, will organize another conference of the UfM Gas Platform, summing up the activities in the 2017-2019 period and plans for the next phase.

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