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## Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

The new issue of the UfM Gas Platform Newsletter comes during this unprecedented coronavirus crisis. At this difficult time, our thoughts are with the people most directly affected.

Understandably, the health crisis linked to the Covid-19 pandemic has consequences on the planned activities of the platform for 2020. However, the work of the Secretariat continues. The rescheduling of some events (workshops, WG kick-off meetings, etc.) is well underway and other planned activities (drafting of reports, website, etc.) are progressing on schedule.

In January, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) organized its Annual Meeting of the three UfM Energy Platforms to discuss the status of activities. The meeting was also an opportunity for the OME to present the next UfM Gas Platform Work Programme to be covered in the period 2020-2022.

## Annual Meeting of the UfM Energy Platforms

On 29-30 January 2020, the UfM Secretariat organized in Barcelona, Spain, its Annual Meeting of the three UfM Energy Platforms (dealing with electricity markets, renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas in the Mediterranean region) to discuss the status of activities of the three platforms. This annual meeting was key since it aimed at providing input and ideas to initiate the preparation of the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy.

During the meeting, the UfM also presented two recently created websites dedicated to the UfM REM Platform and the UfM REEE Platform. The objective is to gather all reports and relevant contributions to the work of the platforms in order to facilitate the access to information to the UfM Energy Platforms' members.

OME General Director, Houda Ben Jannet Allal, presented the status and next steps of the OME publication Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2020 that will include a common UfM-OME energy scenario. She also updated participants on the state of play of the

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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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UfM Gas Platform and presented all key activities and events that will deliver the objectives of the next UfM Gas Platform Work Programme to be covered in the period 2020-2022.

### **Draft UfM Gas Platform Work Programme for 2020-22**

In the 2017-2019 period, the focus of the UfM Gas Platform has been rather on macro level - covering main subjects such as supply-demand, regulation, infrastructure, LNG, gas hubs.

For the next program covering the period 2020-2022, a more focused approach with the overarching goal of a better integration of energy systems in the Mediterranean region while fostering energy transition is envisaged. This would necessitate focusing on the emerging trends, technologies and applications that will not only have significant impact on the Mediterranean gas future but will also shape the future policy orientation.

With this in mind, the new themes included in the future work program of the Gas Platform include the issues that were not directly or specifically covered in the previous work program.

- Small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean region
- Role of gas for the transportation sector in the Med. area
- The role of power to gas and renewable gases technologies in the Mediterranean energy transition
- Technological improvements and environmental mitigation options
- South Mediterranean gas
- Prices, costs and subsidies for natural gas in the Med. region
- Mediterranean Energy Scenarios

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As was the case in previous years, working groups with relevant stakeholders will be established. Dedicated technical meetings, workshops and training sessions related to the studies will be organized by the OME, as UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, to support this work programme (see also tentative agenda below).

### **Upcoming events**

On 22 June 2020, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform will organize a conference through video on *Small Scale LNG Applications in the Mediterranean Region*.

On 23 June 2020, launch of the UfM Gas Platform working group (videoconference) on *the Role of Gas for the Transportation Sector in the Mediterranean Area*.

On 6 July 2020, in Paris, the OME will organize, as part of its activities as the secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, a second workshop on Mediterranean Energy Scenarios.

## 2020 agenda of the UfM Gas Platform work programme

Date and venue (tentative)	Activities / Meetings / Outcomes
29-30 January - Barcelona	UfM Energy Platforms Annual Meeting
March	Quarterly Newsletter
29 May	Draft report on Small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean region
22 June videoconference	Workshop on Small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean region
23 June videoconference	Launch of the Working Group on the role of gas for the transportation sector in the Mediterranean area
June	Quarterly Newsletter
6 July videoconference	Workshop on Mediterranean Energy Scenarios
16 July - Paris	Workshop on prices, costs and subsidies for natural gas in the Med. region
27 July videoconference	Conference on the role of gas for the transportation sector in the Med. area
August	Draft report on the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region
September	Quarterly Newsletter
20 October - Marrakesh	Capacity building: organization of training session back to back with the World Power to X Summit 2020 in Marrakesh
21 October - Paris	Launch of the Working Group on South Mediterranean gas
9 November - Paris	Workshop on reduction of carbon intensity in the transportation sector in the Mediterranean urban areas
24 November - Cairo/Algiers?	Workshop on the role and importance of South Mediterranean gas in European supply security
25 November - Cairo/Algiers?	Workshop on natural gas trade among the South Mediterranean countries
December	Draft report on reduction of carbon intensity in the transportation sector in the Mediterranean urban areas
December	Draft report on Mediterranean Energy Scenarios
10 December - Paris	Launch of the Working Group on the role of power to gas and renewable gases technologies in the Mediterranean energy transition
11 December - Brussels/Paris?	Annual UfM Gas Platform Conference
December	Quarterly Newsletter



*Euro-Med*  
*Pipeline*      *Natural Gas*  
*Trade*      *Security*  
*Perspectives*      *LNG*  
*Gas Hubs*      *Storage*

# **UfM Gas Platform**

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

   
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