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Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

Despite the continuing impact and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic across the Euro-Mediterranean region and the world, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform remains focused in implementing the new programme of work. It organized for the first time a webinar on small scale LNG applications and launched a new working group on the role of gas for the transportation sector. Two reports have been circulated this quarter among the stakeholders of the platform; an update of the UfM Gas Platform infrastructure database with data for 2018 (inclusive) with the report summarizing the main findings, as well as a new report (the first one within the new 2020 Program of Work of the platform) assessing small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean region.

2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Barcelona Process. It was launched in 1995 with the aim of strengthening relations between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean countries, which led to the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The OME and the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform are associated to this anniversary campaign. Today, there is a clear momentum to move forward and further strengthening regional dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean energy/gas sector. And we are committed to contribute to a more successful cooperation between all stakeholders of the platform.

Web conferencing on small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean region

On 22 June 2020, as part of the UfM Gas Platform 2020 activities, the OME organized jointly with the Moroccan Fédération de l'Energie and with the support of the European Commission, a capacity building workshop on small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean Region. Initially planned in Casablanca, the workshop was organised through video conferencing. About 80 registered delegates to the video conference from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea participated to the success of the event.

About 80 delegates registered to the video conference

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



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The opening session highlighted the importance and the role the LNG industry in the Euro-Mediterranean Region can play in the EU/Region decarbonisation path as well as in improving security of supply in the region. The UfM Gas Platform is expected to play a major role as the “gathering place of reference” to strengthen regional dialogue and foster stronger regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean gas sector.



The first session of the workshop “Natural gas and LNG market developments” laid down the context for discussion by providing a comprehensive overview of regional trends and developments. The second session “Small scale LNG: concepts, applications, case studies” delved into the details of the small-scale LNG market with a focus on some Mediterranean countries.

The meeting was also an opportunity for presenting the results of a new report entitled “An assessment of small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean region”. The report is the first one conducted within the framework of the new 2020 Program of Work of the UfM Gas Platform.

Kick-off meeting of the UfM Gas Platform Working Group on the role of gas for the transportation sector in the Mediterranean area

On 23 June 2020, the Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform launched through videoconference the first working group (WG) within the UfM Gas Platform 2020 activities. Dedicated to the role of gas for the transportation sector in the Mediterranean region, this task is divided into two sub groups/studies; Task 3.1 on the benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region, and Task 3.2 on reduction of carbon intensity in the transportation sector in the Mediterranean urban areas. In the meeting the proposed contents of both studies have been discussed (see below).

The WG will examine a deeper use of natural gas in the transportation sector. It will also analyse challenges, benefits and economic opportunities. The plan is to have final draft reports to be circulated to WG Members for review by the end of 2020.

The meeting gathered more than 40 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.

Upcoming events

In July 2020, the OME, as part of its activities as the secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, will organize a workshop on Mediterranean Energy Scenarios. Following-up on the first meeting held in December 2019, experts will finalize the story lines and trajectories expected to 2050 by sector and by fuel.

Two new reports to be prepared by the end of 2020

In September 2020, the Secretariat of the platform will organize two webinars; a workshop on prices, costs and subsidies for natural gas in the Med. region and a conference on the role of gas for the transportation sector in the Med. Area.

WG on the role of gas for the transportation sector in the Mediterranean area – Proposed contents of the studies

Current version of the table of contents of the study 3.1 (benefits, challenges...):

1. Introduction
2. An overview of maritime transport in the MED
3. IMO regulations: Current situation and future plans
4. LNG and alternative fuels in maritime transportation: A comparison
5. Benefits of LNG in maritime transportation
6. Barriers, uncertainties and challenges to overcome
7. Perspectives fo LNG use in maritime transport
8. LNG Bunkering development in the Mediterranean
9. Importance to include the Mediterranean Sea into Sulfur Emission Control Areas
 - a. Lessons to learn from other ECAs
10. Conclusions

Current version of the table of contents of the study 3.2 (reduction of carbon intensity...):

1. Introduction
2. Prospects for economy & demography in the MED
3. Prospects for road transport sector developments
4. The role of road transport (passenger cars, busses, and trucks)
5. Transportation strategies of MED countries (state of play, plans for the future)
6. The future of alternative fuels in road transport in MED
7. Benefits, challenges and barriers to natural gas as a road transport fuel, from a social, economic and environmental perspective (including regulatory aspects)
8. Lessons to learn from case studies
9. Possible strategies for the future
10. Conclusions

UfM Gas Platform website
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UfM Gas Platform

Transition
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Cooperation
Investments
Sustainability
Capacity building
Mediterranean Sea

 
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