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UfM Gas Platform website  
online at

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

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## Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

With no doubt, 2020 has been an exceptionally challenging year for all and all regions in the World. The historic shock of the Covid-19 pandemic affected and continue to affect deeply our lives, impacting substantially the economic and energy sectors, and compromising countries' and companies' current energy goals, notably in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Nevertheless, the work of the Secretariat of the Platform continued in strong cooperation with the European Commission and the UfM Secretariat. During this quarter, the Secretariat launched a new working group (WG) dedicated to "South Mediterranean Gas", and organized a webinar to discuss the key benefits, barriers and uncertainties, relevant challenges as well as future development perspectives of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean area. It also circulated a new report among the stakeholders of the platform on "The benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region".

Some other workshops and working group meetings, initially planned in 2020 within the UfM Gas Platform activities, were rescheduled with the aim to give preference later on to physical gatherings; the core of UfM energy platforms' mandate being to foster regional dialogue, cooperation and exchange among all Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders of the energy/gas sector.

## Kick-off meeting of the UfM Gas Platform Working Group on "South Mediterranean Gas"

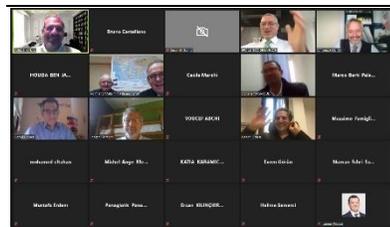
The Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform launched, on 26 November 2020, through videoconference a new WG within the UfM Gas Platform 2020 activities. This task is dedicated to "South Mediterranean Gas" and is divided into two sub groups/studies; Task 6.1 on the role and importance of South Mediterranean gas in European supply security, and Task 6.2 on natural gas trade among the South Mediterranean countries: perspectives for the future.

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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*About 40 delegates  
registered to the video  
conference*

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Because gas developments in the South Mediterranean region are of high importance for the European Commission, the group's goal is twofold; to investigate how South Mediterranean gas could play an important role in Europe's search for additional gas supplies, and to address the challenges and opportunities in increasing gas trade within South Mediterranean countries in the future.

Participants discussed and fixed the content of the two studies (see below), and defined the activities. On each topic a workshop will be organized, to either feed the reports or present them. The objective is to have draft reports to be circulated to WG members for review by early 2021.

The meeting gathered more than 30 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.

### **Web conferencing on the use of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region**

The OME as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform, organized, on 30 November 2020, through video conferencing and with the support of the European Commission, a workshop on the benefits, challenges and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean Region. About 40 registered delegates to the video conference from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea contributed to the success of the event.

In the opening session, attention was drawn on the importance and the role LNG can play in the maritime transport in the Euro-Mediterranean Region's decarbonisation path. The first session of the workshop "The use of LNG in maritime transport: Overview" set the context for discussion by providing a comprehensive overview of regional trends and developments. The second session "The use of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean" delved into the use of LNG in the maritime shipping industry through some case studies. Participants also debated the significance of designating the Mediterranean Sea as Sulphur Emission Control Area.

During the event, the Secretariat of the Platform presented to the participants the main findings of the new UfM Gas Platform report titled "The benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region" which was released in November 2020. The report aims at a better understanding of the key benefits, barriers and uncertainties, relevant challenges as well as future development perspectives for the use of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region. It also assesses the potential role of other alternative fuels such as ammonia and methanol, and examines the importance of including the Mediterranean Sea into the Sulphur Emission Control Areas (SECA).

## Upcoming event

In early 2021 (exact date tbc), the UfM Secretariat will organize 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. One of the main topics of the annual meeting will be the preparation of the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy.

Moreover, OME General Director, Houda Ben Jannet Allal, will present the main results and conclusions from a common UfM-OME energy scenario, a "ProMED scenario".

## WG on "South Mediterranean Gas" – Proposed contents of the studies

Current version of the table of contents of the study 6.1 (role and importance of South Med. gas in European supply security):

1. Comparative evaluation of forecasts for EU gas import requirement in the future
  - ❑ Production, demand, import requirement/capacity
2. Evaluation of forecasts for South Med gas export potential
  - ❑ Reserves/resources, production, demand, export potential/capacity, government strategies/plans
3. Gas export infrastructure from/through South Med to EU
  - ❑ Current situation, ongoing/planned projects
4. Challenges and opportunities for export of gas from/through South Med to the EU
  - ❑ Impacts of prices, politics, hydrogen and other tech., role of regulation and regulators, place of developments in gas business such as small-scale LNG and LNG bunkering
5. Conclusions

Current version of the table of contents of the study 6.2 (gas trade among the South Med. countries: perspectives for the future):

1. Gas trade among South Mediterranean countries: current situation
  - ❑ Trade volumes/flows matrix by type (pipe/LNG)
2. Gas trade among South Mediterranean countries: possible developments in the future
  - ❑ Plans/projects/expectations
3. Challenges and opportunities for increasing gas trade within the South Med region
  - ❑ The role of prices, regulation, politics and policies, the reasons of why some gas infrastructure projects could not be developed or failed
4. Possible way forward
5. Conclusions

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