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Message from the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat

Understandably, the Covid-19 pandemic still has consequences on the planned activities of the UfM Gas Platform, especially in the organization of (working group) meetings. Nevertheless, several tasks of the programme of work are either already completed or are progressing on schedule.

In January 2021, the Secretariat of the Platform circulated a final version of the report titled “The benefits, challenges, and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean region”, incorporating all the comments received by the Gas Platform members. The next report to be circulated will be on *reduction of carbon intensity in the transportation sector in the Mediterranean urban areas*.

During this quarter, the Secretariat launched a new working group (WG) dedicated to “The role of gas in the Med. energy transition”, and organized a Steering Committee meeting to discuss the status of the Platform’s activities and planned ones.

An important milestone for the three UfM Energy platforms will be the next UfM Ministerial Meeting on Energy which is scheduled to take place on 14 June 2021 in Portugal. A new Ministerial Declaration on Energy is expected to be signed during the event.

Steering Committee meeting of the UfM Gas Platform

On 11 February 2021, the UfM Gas Platform Secretariat organised a Steering Committee meeting of the UfM Gas Platform through video conference. The meeting aimed at reporting to the EC/participants on the progress of the UfM gas Platform, planned activities for 2021 and 2022, and updating them on the state of play on “MED Energy Scenarios”. Participants also discussed ways for a better dissemination/promotion of Platform’s next thematic studies and events on decarbonised/green gases and methane emissions.

UfM Gas Platform website
online at
<https://www.ufmgasplatform.org/>

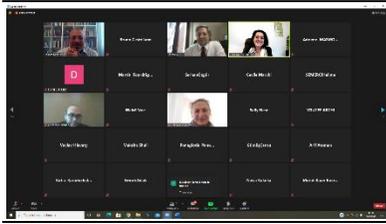
The UfM Gas Platform is a concrete outcome of the will of the UfM members and major stakeholders to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the EU and South and East Mediterranean countries.

More information available at: [ufmgasplatform.org](https://www.ufmgasplatform.org)



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.

Kick-off meeting of the UfM Gas Platform Working Group on “Role of gas in the Med. energy transition”



About 50 delegates registered to the video conference

The Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform launched, on 18 February 2021, through videoconference a new working group dedicated to “The role of power to gas and renewable gases technologies in the Mediterranean energy transition”. This task is divided into three sub groups/studies; Task 4.1 on the role of renewable gases as an energy carrier towards a low carbon Mediterranean energy future, Task 4.2 on Power to Gas, a sector coupling perspective towards a more sustainable energy transition in the Euro-Med area, and Task 4.3 on the switch from coal to gas in the power sector.

Hand in hand with energy efficiency, natural gas and renewables can achieve a better energy future for all. These three studies will present the key benefits, barriers and uncertainties as well as relevant challenges for the role of gas in Mediterranean energy transition. They will look into the role of gas in the regional energy transition separately and they will focus mainly on the South Mediterranean countries as several topics that constitute this task have already been well studied for the EU countries. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and fix the contents of the reports (see below) and events related to them within the UfM Gas Platform 2021 activities.

The meeting gathered about 50 delegates from 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.

WG on “Role of gas in the Med. energy transition” – Contents of the studies

Current version of the table of contents of the study 4.1 (role of renewable gases as an energy carrier towards a low carbon Med. energy future) as agreed by the Working Group members:

1. Introduction
2. Renewable gases as emerging solutions for the energy transition: concepts, characteristics, technologies, processes
 - ❑ Biomethane; Biogas; Bio-LNG and Bio-CNG; Synthetic natural gas; Hydrogen
3. Comparisons of the systems and costs (economic, environment)
4. The state of the renewable gas sector in the Med. region
 - ❑ Production and consumption of renewable gases in the Med.; Plans and projects
5. Key benefits, barriers, uncertainties and relevant challenges
 - ❑ Regulation for renewable gases (weaknesses, gaps, needs); Integration of renewable gases into natural gas transmission and distribution infrastructure, including infrastructure requirements; Support schemes and financing
6. Conclusions and possible way forward

Current version of the table of contents of the study 4.2 (power to gas, a sector coupling perspective towards a more sustainable energy transition in the Euro-Med. area) as agreed by the Working Group members:

1. Introduction
2. The Power-to-Gas concept and technologies
 - ❑ A value chain comparison (including costs) with existing technologies, fuels
3. Potential deployment of Power to Gas for fuels and other applications
 - ❑ Solution for power supply system backup, Power-to-gas storage; For transportation, generating heat & power, industrial processes
4. A review of power-to-gas projects and plans in the Med.
5. Key drivers, opportunities, prerequisites barriers, uncertainties and relevant challenges
 - ❑ Challenges and approaches followed to integrate wind and photovoltaic production into the energy system, including the role of smart grids; Costs and considerations (water use and availability, efficiency, and price volatility); Regulatory aspects; How could electricity and gas systems complement each other?; Support schemes
6. Can the Med. region become a producer & exporter of power-to-gas?
7. Conclusions

Current version of the table of contents of the study 4.3 (switch from coal to gas in the power sector) as agreed by the Working Group members:

1. Introduction
2. The place of coal in the energy mix and electricity generation mix in the Mediterranean region: An overview
3. The future of coal in power generation in the Med. region
 - ❑ Policies and strategies by country, including prices and costs if available
4. Key benefits and challenges facing the switch from coal to gas in the power sector in the Med. region by country
5. A possible roadmap
6. Conclusions

Upcoming events

On 14 June 2021, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Meeting on Energy will be held in Portugal, with participation of the 42 members of the UfM. The goal of the meeting is to agree to step up regional cooperation on energy in order to deliver a secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply, a major factor for stability and shared prosperity in the Mediterranean region.

On 1 July 2021, a conference will be held (physical or virtual) on the role of renewable gases and power to gas towards a low carbon Mediterranean energy future.

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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

 
This project is funded by
The European Union

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