

Press Release

Mediterranean stakeholders discuss the future of LNG at the UfM Gas Platform Conference in Paris



Paris, 13 June 2019 – With the Mediterranean Sea potentially set to become an ECA (Emission Control Area), Egypt is well-placed to spearhead energy transition in the East Mediterranean thanks to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

On June 13, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Gas Platform Conference, entitled **The Role of LNG in Mediterranean Gas Security**, took place at the Hotel Intercontinental Paris Le Grand. Organised by the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME) with the support of the European Commission. The event explored the role LNG will play in the near future in energy diversification, innovation, and transition in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

At the opening session, Dominique Ristori, Director-General for Energy of the European Commission, Nasser Kamel, Secretary General of the UfM Secretariat, and Houda Ben Jannet Allal, UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, Director General of the OME, highlighted the role of the UfM Gas Platform as the “gathering place of reference” to strengthen regional dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean gas sector.

In the Strategic Debate, HE Tarek El-Molla, Minister of Petroleum of Egypt and Dominique Ristori, shared with the participants the latest developments on Egypt's and EU's energy policies; the place of natural gas in Egypt's energy future; how Egypt has been successful in taking a large deposit from discovery to production in record time, resuming exports and sending a strong message to potential investors; EU strategy towards natural gas and LNG; the importance of natural gas in the energy security/transition of the Mediterranean region; crucial importance of regional cooperation; and the role of OME and of the UfM Gas Platform in facilitating this cooperation.

In the following sessions, it was underlined that natural gas, hand in hand with renewable energies and energy efficiency, is an important fuel for the Euro-Mediterranean region to contribute in reaching the objectives laid out in the Paris Agreement.

Several factors have been driving for favouring the LNG option in the region. For instance, LNG is becoming more and more attractive both for road and maritime transport. On the latter, the possibility of transitioning the Mediterranean to ECA status is currently being examined.

The discovery of numerous offshore gas deposits and prospects for yet to be discovered resources have turned the Eastern Mediterranean into a zone which sometimes is also called as 'New Norway'. In order to fully benefit from these resources, it was recognised that several challenges need to be overcome, and that regional cooperation is a must for the benefit of all.

At a time of significant change in the energy sector around the world, regional stakeholders must now demonstrate the common will to work together towards an effective energy transition in the Euro-Mediterranean.



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Initiated in Malta in July 2014, confirmed in Rome in November 2014 and launched in June 2015, in Brussels, the objective of the UfM Gas Platform is to enhance the cooperation in the Euro-Med. region between all stakeholders of the gas chain, in a bottom-up approach to improve gas security by identifying barriers and opportunities. The "Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie" (OME) runs the Platform's secretariat in close coordination with the UfM co-presidency.

The UfM Gas Platform is one of the three UfM Energy Platform (The two others are on regional electricity market and on renewable energy and energy efficiency) established by EU Energy Ministers, Ministers of Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, and the European Commission to further strengthen regional cooperation in the Mediterranean for ensuring secure, affordable and sustainable energy for the region and beyond.

More information about the UfM Gas Platform available at <https://www.ufmgasplatform.org/>