

Press Release

ENERMED Workshop on developments & perspectives in the LNG industry, Marrakech, 19 April 2018



Paris, 30 April 2018: as part of its Energy in the Mediterranean (ENERMED) training programme, the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME) organized jointly with the Moroccan Fédération de l'Énergie, a third edition of its annual workshop on LNG trends to present an overview of global and regional recent developments in the LNG industry, and to discuss possible future trends.

Held in Marrakech on 19 April 2018, the annual workshop was organized for the first time within the activities of the UfM Gas Platform and with the support of the European Commission. It aimed to provide opportunities to carry on the exchanges of knowledge and views on the current situation and perspectives of the LNG market in line with the main purpose of the gas platform; i.e. to establish a regional structured dialogue facilitating the progressive development of a Euro-Mediterranean gas market in order to promote security, transparency, and predictability of both demand and supply in a manner that correctly and fairly balances the interest of producing and consuming countries.

The workshop was a unique occasion for participants to debate around the topics that matter in the LNG industry today and in the future. Around 30 delegates from institutions and the industry from both shores of the Mediterranean Sea participated to the success of this workshop.

Several guest speakers contributed to the different sessions and stimulated exchanges/discussions between participants. Marco Berti Palazzi (European Commission DG-ENER) presented the EU strategy for LNG; Willem Braat (International Energy Agency) presented the main trends driving the LNG markets; Hasan Ozkoc (Mediterranean Energy Regulators) discussed the regulatory aspects of LNG in the Mediterranean region; and

Alexander Huurdeman (World Bank) introduced the Pan-Arab regional energy trade platform initiative.

The views of the industry were also discussed. Daniel Gomez Benusiglio (Gas Natural Fenosa and Chairman of OME Hydrocarbons and Energy Security Committee) focused on the importance of LNG and its contribution to lower the carbon intensity; and Giorgio Bocchio (Eni) presented Eni's view on LNG market developments. The presentation of the 2018 issue of the Shell's LNG Outlook was also made available to participants.

To conclude the workshop, Marco Margheri (Edison and Chairman of the OME Gas Task Force) chaired a roundtable with all guest speakers to discuss the challenges for the LNG market and the role of LNG in the Euro-Mediterranean energy market.

LNG is expected to play an important role in improving security of supply in the region, but also in satisfying new needs in areas such as transport. The event highlighted in particular the trends towards less rigidity in LNG sale and purchase agreements although fixed destination remains a dominant feature of LNG markets. Recent discoveries in the region and a well-supplied global natural gas market create opportunities for all buyers to access new and more flexible resources. However, significant investments are required not only for the transportation of the resources but also for their development. And stable and harmonized regulatory framework will be essential to promote those needed investments. Regional cooperation in the sector in the Euro-Mediterranean can deliver important benefits to all parties concerned. It is hoped that the UfM Gas Platform will help strengthen this cooperation.

On 20 April, the meeting of the UfM gas platform Working Group on LNG took place to discuss the final draft report of the study entitled "The role of LNG in European-Mediterranean gas supply security". The presentation of Abel Enriquez (Enagas) on the main findings of the study was followed by an open discussion with working group members.

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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 soon at @ www.ufmgasplatform.org