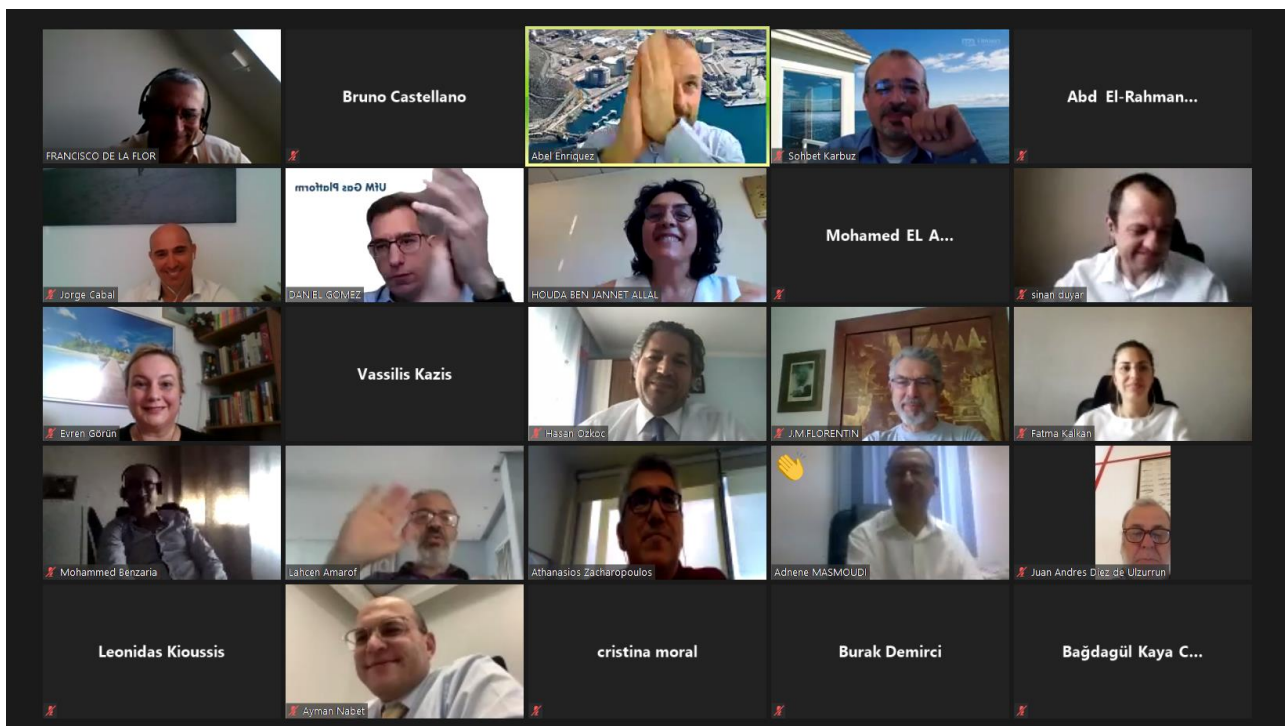


Press Release

UfM Gas Platform capacity building workshop on small-scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean Region



Paris, 26 June 2020 – As part of the UfM Gas Platform 2020 activities, the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME) organized jointly with the Moroccan Fédération de l'Énergie and with the support of the European Commission, a capacity building workshop on small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean Region on 22 June 2020. 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.

In his welcoming remarks, Leonidas Kioussis, DG ENER, European Commission, discussed the importance and the role the LNG industry in the Euro-Mediterranean Region can play in the EU/Region decarbonisation path. Next, Ahmed Nakkouch, Moroccan Fédération de l'Énergie, stressed on the key role LNG is expected to play in improving security of supply in his country, and in the region in general. Houda Ben Jannet Allal, OME/UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, underlined the major role of the UfM Gas Platform as the “gathering place of reference” to strengthen regional dialogue and foster stronger regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean gas sector.

She then gave an overview of the activities carried out over the past three years and presented to participants the activities and events that will deliver the objectives of the UfM Gas Platform Work Programme in 2020.

Between 2017 and 2019, the focus of the UfM Gas Platform has been rather on macro level (covering main subjects such as supply-demand, regulation, infrastructure, LNG, gas hubs). The new phase will focus at the technical level (emerging trends, technologies and applications) with the

overarching goal of a better integration of energy systems in the Mediterranean region while fostering energy transition. The new themes include the issues that will not only have significant impact on the Mediterranean gas future but will also shape the future policy orientation. They were not directly or specifically covered in the previous work programme; small scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean region, role of gas for the transportation sector, technological improvements and environmental mitigation options, South Mediterranean gas, etc.

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.

Luis Bertran, IGU Secretariat, presented key results of the recently published 2020 IGU World LNG Report. Global LNG trade set new records in 2019. LNG continues to enhance global energy security and increase the flexibility of access to the abundant global gas supplies.

Marco Serafini, Shell, presented main findings from the Shell LNG Outlook 2020. The significant increase of global demand for LNG in 2019 bolstered LNG’s growing role in the transition to a lower-carbon energy system.

Finally, Jean-Baptiste Dubreuil, IEA, provided an overview of recent gas market developments and the key findings from the IEA’s annual gas market report. 2020 is expected to experience the largest recorded demand shock in the history of global gas markets.

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.

Daniel Gomez, chairman of OME Hydrocarbons and Energy Security Committee, presented the key results of the UfM Gas Platform report which was released in June 2020 and titled “An assessment of small-scale LNG applications in the Mediterranean region”. The report aims at a better understanding how the small-scale LNG applications are developing in the Euro-Mediterranean region and prospects for the future.

Jorge Cabal, Naturgy, focused on the development and applications of small-scale LNG in Spain, emphasizing that the Mediterranean region has a great potential for further small-scale LNG implementation due to its large experience and vast LNG infrastructure.

Last, Francisco de la Flor and Abel Enriquez, Enagas, reviewed the ongoing developments and applications in small scale LNG market/business in EU/Spain, and listed some of the key benefits of LNG as a fuel in all types of transportation modes (road, maritime and rail).

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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 Platforms (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/>