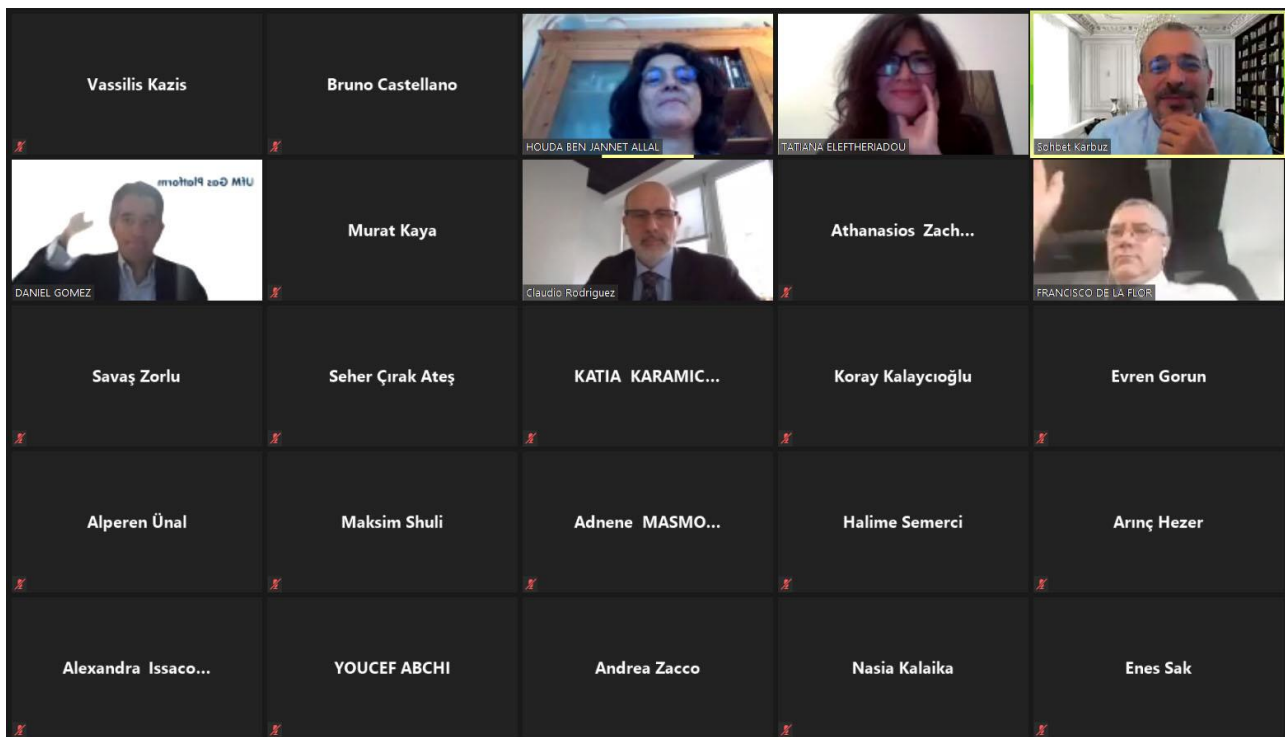


Press Release

UfM Gas Platform workshop on the benefits, challenges and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean Region



Paris, 1 December 2020 – As part of the UfM Gas Platform 2020 activities, the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME) organized with the support of the European Commission, a workshop on the benefits, challenges and opportunities of LNG in maritime transport in the Mediterranean Region on 30 November 2020. The workshop was organised through video conferencing. About 40 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 her welcoming remarks, Houda Ben Jannet Allal, OME/UfM Gas Platform Secretariat, stressed on the importance and the role LNG can play in the maritime transport in the Euro-Mediterranean Region's decarbonisation path. She underlined the major role of the UfM Gas Platform as a gathering place to strengthen regional dialogue and foster stronger regional cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean gas sector. She then gave an overview of the main activities and events already or to be carried out in 2020 that will deliver the objectives of the UfM Gas Platform Work Programme covering the period 2020-2022.

Last, she explained that the Covid-19 pandemic has obvious consequences on the planned activities of the platform for 2020. However, the work of the Secretariat continues in strong cooperation with the European Commission and the UfM Secretariat. Drafting of reports, maintenance of the website, etc. are progressing on schedule. Several events (workshops, WG kick-off meetings, etc.) have been organized through video conferencing while the rescheduling of some others was done on

purpose to give preference later on to physical gatherings; the core of UfM energy platforms' mandate being to foster dialogue and exchange among all Euro-Mediterranean stakeholders.

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.

Francisco Allonso, Naturgy, presented the view of a shipowner emphasizing on the importance of certainties in regulation and supply chain to secure investments. And the key role of shipowners in the transition process to alternative fuels.

Luis Bertran, IGU Secretariat, reviewed the benefits and opportunities of using and supporting LNG in the maritime transport as it is the leading competitive and widely available marine fuel option today that can act as a strong foundation for future emissions reductions.

Finally, Jean-Baptiste Dubreuil, IEA, focused on the role of LNG in decarbonizing maritime shipping. In the IEA outlook, switching to LNG as an alternative maritime fuel is not enough to reduce greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions of the sector. More changes are needed to decarbonise maritime shipping (biofuels, energy efficiency, ammonia, hydrogen, etc.).

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.

Daniel Gomez, chairman of OME Hydrocarbons and Energy Security Committee, provided the main findings of the 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).

Antonio Miranda, Naturgy, explored the steady development of LNG bunkering in Spain, underlining the lessons learnt by the sector and the relevant challenges ahead.

Last, Claudio Rodriguez, Enagas, presented the situation in the maritime sector in Spain, focusing on the CORE LNGas hive project, led by Puertos del Estado and coordinated by Enagas. The project aims at developing a safe and efficient, integrated logistics and supply chain for LNG in the transport industry (small scale and bunkering), particularly for maritime transport of the Iberian Peninsula.

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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/>