



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE
EUROPEAN CLUB OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF ICOLD**

CHANIA (GREECE), 1ST OCTOBER 2019



**MINUTES OF MEETING
(Draft of the 31st of January 2020)**



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OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF ICOLD
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MINUTES

1. Welcome to representatives and approval of Agenda items

The Secretary welcomed the attendees and thanked the Greek National Committee the organization of the several events undergoing this week. Then he asked the Board to review and approve the agenda items, which were approved by unanimity.

Next, the Secretary indicated that Russia has joined the European Club in July 2019. With Russia, the European Club has 26 member countries. The incorporation is automatic for all national committees which apply and accept the Club Constitution (1995) (the letter of application -22nd July 2019- is included in Annex 1). The Secretary explained that the Russian representatives could not attend the meeting and hoped that they could be present in New Delhi (April 2020). The Board welcomed the notice and agreed in the idea that the Russian contribution is going to be very significant.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting (Vienna, Austria, 1st July 2018).

The Minutes from the previous meeting (Ottawa, June 2019) will be submitted for approval in the next meeting, in conjunction with the Minutes of the present meeting (Chania, October 2019).

3. Intervention of the ICOLD Vice-President for Europe

Dr. Enrique Cifres, ICOLD Vice-President for Europe, highlighted the fact that EURCOLD activities are in line with the European aim of facing the millennium challenges, as:

- Fighting climate change. Dr. Cifres stated that 55% of the energy in EU is generated from renewable sources and he stressed the importance of hydropower within the current mix and future decarbonized mix.
- Promoting the stakeholders participation. This aspect, included in the EU strategic plans, is paramount to the dam community, which has to make an effort to better understand and communicate with the stakeholders.

4. Introduction to the 11th EURCOLD SYMPOSIUM

Dr. George Dounias, President of the Greek National Committee, welcomed the attendants and explained the detailed program for the 11th EURCOLD Symposium:



2nd October:

- Opening ceremony & Introductory presentations
- Session 1: Dams and reservoirs in a climate change perspective
- Session 2: Dams adapting to legislation and energy needs
- Session 3: Dam safety and risk management: Social impact and awareness I
- Session 4: Earthquakes and dam design
- Session 5: Dam safety and risk management: Social impact and awareness II
- Welcome reception

3rd October:

- Session 6: Advances in dam engineering: Innovation and knowledge as tools for better dams
- Session 7: Design and construction issues in current projects
- Session 8: Advances in dam engineering modelling
- Session 9: Dam monitoring and long term behavior of dams
- Closing ceremony
- Cretan dinner & Cultural event

4th October

- Technical & Cultural visit: Valsamiotis and Amari dams, to the gorge of Aghios Antonios, Eleftherna archaeological site and Rethymno.

Dr. Dounias also referred to the three events done during 30th September and 1st October: the *Seminar on spillway design*, the *Workshop of the EWG on levees* and the *Workshop of the HYDROPOWER-EUROPE project* for the Mediterranean region.

One more time, the Board acknowledge the effort and excellent work done by the Greek National Committee in the organization and coupling of these activities.

5. Report by the President

The President presented a report stressing the importance of dams in Europe and the need to raise awareness of European policy to support the role of reservoirs and dams.

He explained that traditional uses as power supply, seasonal water storage and flood mitigation are predicted to be more relevant in a context of climate change. However, although these needs are growing, challenges as competition with other renewables (solar and wind power) or societal and environmental criticism are raising. Therefore, it is important to find new environmental and social friendly concepts and to disseminate among policy-makers the role that dams and reservoirs play.

Within this framework, the HYDROPOWER-EUROPE project (1st November 2018 - 31st October 2021) is intended to define the needs and research actions to integrate hydropower in a decarbonized energy system, with safe and sustainable structures.



The consultation through regional workshops (Nordic, Alpine and Mediterranean) has been recently finished with a 2-day meeting in Chania, that included high level lectures (30th September) and focus discussion groups providing SWOT analysis on specific regional challenges (1st October).

The next objectives for 2019 are to complete and process the online consultation (this will be open until 31st October in the project website) and to prepare the first drafts of the Research and Innovation Agenda (RIA) and the Strategic Industry Roadmap (SIR). Further information about the project publications and the online consultation could be find in the project website: <https://hydropower-europe.eu/>

The President ended his presentation recognizing the effort of the Greek National Committee for the organization of the 11th EURCOLD Symposium.

6. Recent activities of the European Working Groups (EWG) and Task Forces (TF).

Chairs of active working groups presented a short report on the activities that were carried out between the Ottawa's meeting and the present meeting:

- Adrian Rushworth and Patrick Peters, coordinators of the **EWG on Levees and flood defences** presented the recent activities of this group. A 2-day workshop was carried out in Chania. The first day (30th September) was devoted to fibre optics monitoring of levees and the second day (1st October) to the analysis of the differences and similarities between dams and levees. The scheduled activities for 2020 include the New Delhi meeting, the FLOODrisk conference (Budapest, September 2020) and the organization of another workshop. Further information on the group activities could be found on the newsletter, which is available at the EURCOLD webpage.
- Jean-Jacques Fry, on behalf Stéphane Bonelli, presented the activities of the **EWG on Internal erosion & Scour of embankment dams**. The 18th group meeting was held in Vancouver (Canada) in June 2019, after the ICOLD Annual Meeting. The objective was to collect experience of the application on ICOLD Bulletin 164. The next meeting (19th) is programmed to be held in Sheffield (UK) in July 2020 and 20th in Marseille in 2021.
- Jean-Jacques Fry presented the activities of the **EWG on Dams and earthquakes**. There is no further information since Ottawa. The paper and presentations of the 3rd group meeting (Lisbon, May 2019) are uploaded on the workshop website. The next meeting is expected to be held in 2020. Proposals for hosting this event, preferably from a city in a seismic area, are welcome.
- Jean-Jacques Fry, on behalf Jean-Robert Courivaud, explained the activities of the recently launched **EWG on Overflowing erosion of dams and levees**.



This new EWG has the kick-off meeting in Ottawa, with 34 attendants. The meeting was focused on the preparation of the Terms of Reference and in the presentation of the state of the art of 4 sub-topics of interest: embankment dams and levees, concrete dams and spillways, coastal levees and protections. The Minutes of this kick-off meeting were sent to all attendees and people who expressed interest (around 70 people in total). The objective for 2020 is to complete the definition of the Terms of Reference, mapping the knowledge for the 4 sub-topics. The next scheduled action of this EWG is the Protections Seminar, which will be held in Madrid, in November 2020.

- Guido Mazzà presented the activities of the **TF on Dams and territories**. He first emphasized the idea that understanding social aspects is paramount to overcome the prejudices on the role of dams. The work that is undergoing by ITCOLD consists in performing regional workshops for discussing with the stakeholders about the actions taken by dam owners. ITCOLD has already carried out 5 workshops to assess 55 dams of 19 different owners. The output will help owners to understand stakeholders and to improve its pro-activity practices. The last workshop was organized in Palermo 10 days after the symposium on the 10th of October 2019.

The Board acknowledged the important work done by the EWGs and TFs.

7. Proposal of a new EWG on Penstocks

Giovanni Ruggeri, presented the ITCOLD proposal to create a new EWG on Penstocks. He explained that ITCOLD has been concerned on the reassessment of the existing penstocks and has created a working group to review this topic. A bulletin has been issued (<https://www.itcold.it/gruppo-di-lavoro/condotte-forzate/>) and a seminar has been conducted in Milan, in March 2019. This experience, he said, should be transferred at a European level; thus, the proposal of a new EWG on Penstocks.

The proposed Terms of Reference for this EWG is to issue a bulletin with rules and practices in the European countries, covering the following topics:

- Types of penstocks
- Main constitutive elements
- Surveillance and control methodologies
- Criteria for safety assessment
- Main recurring problems
- Maintenance and rehabilitation
- Case studies

The proposed chairperson is Antonella Frigerio from RSE, who has experience in the reassessment process of several Italian penstocks and who chaired the ITCOLD working group.



Prof. Anton Schleiss expressed the relevance of the topic and recommended to extend the scope to pressure shafts.

The Board agree with the idea that this is an important work and thank the Italian National Committee for this interesting initiative that is well-backed by its previous work. The Board also agrees with Prof. Schleiss that the pressure shafts should also be considered under the scope of this new EWG.

In consequence, the new **EWG on Penstocks & pressure shafts** is approved and Antonella Frigerio is appointed as chairperson on this EWG.

8. Other activities: workshops, meetings, etc. scheduled for 2018-19

The Secretary remind about the scheduled workshops and conferences. These are the following:

- International Workshop on landslide-generated impulse waves in reservoirs, to be held in Ittigen (Berne), in November 2019.
- Protections 2020. The 4th International Seminar on dam protections against overtopping, to be held in Madrid, in November 2020.

Information on these activities is already uploaded to the EURCOLD website.

The Board acknowledges the support given by the Portuguese National Committee to the EURCOLD website.

9. Miscellaneous aspects

President Fry asked to Portuguese representatives if the proceedings of the European Symposiums could be uploaded to the website. Mr. Rocha indicates that this is technically feasible but copyright agreements should be checked first. Prof. Schleiss indicates that there is an intermediate possibility opening a restricted access to members. The Board agrees that it would be interesting to have access to the Symposium papers and that this should be analyzed with the Secretary General of ICOLD.

Jean-Jacques Fry
President

Alfredo Granados
Secretary General