



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

GOTHENBURG, 11TH JUNE 2023



MINUTES OF THE MEETING



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OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF ICOLD
Gothenburg, 11th June 2023**

MINUTES

1. Welcome to new representatives and approval of agenda items

The President welcomed the new representatives: Denis Aelbrecht (France), Monique Sanders (Netherlands) and Rachel Davies (UK).

Then she introduced the agenda items, which were approved by unanimity, and encourage the attendants for participation during the meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meetings (Marseille, May 2022; and President election, Online, December 2022)

The Secretary asked the Board to provide any additional comments to the minutes of the meeting held in Marseille in May 2022, and the meeting for the President election held online in December 2022.

The minutes of both meetings were unanimously approved without further amendments.

3. Report from the President and Secretary General

The President made an overview of the priorities, targets and proposed actions for the period 2023-2025. The main are:

- To support the action of the existing EWGs.
- To create new EWGs and TFs to examine emerging issues for Europe.
- To gain representation of all ICOLD European member countries.
- To encourage young professionals to participate in European Club activities.
- To participate in the ETIP Hydropower and to collaborate with other agencies and institutions in future research projects.
- To raise public awareness and acceptance of dams.
- To develop new communication channels and to edit a newsletter with information.
- To promote capacity building and continuous educational development.

Then the Secretary resume the actions ahead, to be addressed in the upcoming meeting. The main are:

- To draft by-laws on the EWG procedures (creation, management, reporting, etc.).
- To select the abbreviated name of the Club (EUCOLD or EurCOLD).
- To create a group of support (social media, newsletter, website, etc.).
- To call for candidacies for hosting the 13th EurCOLD Symposium.



- To discuss on the interest to exchange information on critical entities directive.

4. Report on the 12th EurCOLD Symposium preparation (Interlaken, Switzerland, September 2023)

Patrice Droz, on behalf of SwissCOD, presented the program for the 12th EurCOLD Symposium, which include:

Tuesday, 5th of September 2023

- YPs meeting.
- SwissCOD Workshops:
 - Earthquakes and dams.
 - Hydraulics of dams.
 - Special design topics: RCC and CFRD dams.
 - Pendulum systems in dams.
- EWG workshops & meetings:
 - Penstock and pressure shafts.
 - Levees and flood defences.
 - Internal erosion.
 - Dams and earthquakes.
- EurCOLD Board meeting.
- Welcome reception.

Wednesday, 6th of September 2023

- Symposium “Role of dams and reservoirs in a successful energy transition”.
- Cultural evening.

Thursday, 7th of September 2023

- Symposium “Role of dams and reservoirs in a successful energy transition”.
- Swiss sessions.
- Swissdams 75th Anniversary dinner.

Friday, 8th of September 2023

- Field trip to Spitallamm dam.

More than 100 papers have been submitted to the Symposium. A book is under preparation for edition with CRC press.

The Board acknowledged the excellent work done by SwissCOD to organize the 12th EurCOLD Symposium.

5. Information on ICOLD President’s proposal on new Ad-Hoc Committee Gender Diversity and Inclusion

María Bartsch, presented the proposal of the ICOLD President to create and **Ad-Hoc Committee on Gender diversity and inclusion**, to be chaired by herself.



The purpose of this committee will be to support and promote increasing participation of female professionals in dam sector and to explore how ICOLD can be inclusive to all genders, raise awareness and educate.

There will be an opening meeting on Monday 12th of June, with the (European) participation of: Laurent Mouvet, Mateja Klun and Maria Barstch.

The Board welcome the proposal and acknowledged María Bartsch and President Lino for the initiative.

As the proposal still to be formally voted on the General Assembly, Maria Bartsch asked for the full support of EurCOLD countries to approve it.

6. YPs Involvement

Rosella Caruana and Sera Lazaridou, presented the initiatives to facilitate and encourage YPs involvement on EurCOLD activities:

- To include a specific YP's event on EurCOLD Symposiums.
- To invite the European representatives on the YPF Board to attend the EurCOLD Board meetings and express their views.

All were approved unanimously by the Board.

In relation with this initiatives, President Lazaridou explained that YPs activities are already scheduled to be held on the 12th EurCOLD Symposium and that Mateja Klun, from Slovenia, chair of ICOLD YPF, has been invited to participate in this meeting.

7. Video projection by ITCOLD

The Italian National Committee (ITCOLD) presented a video that has been prepared to communicate the contents of EurCOLD's Manifesto (2016), based on the experience gained in the "Dam a Territories" workshops, with the aim to raise public awareness on dams.

Guido Mazzà explained that this was a first step and that a series of other, shorter, videos are to be prepared to be easily shown on social media.

The Board recognized the importance of the initiative and congratulated ITCOLD for the work done, highlighting the clear messages given and the attractive aesthetics of the video.

8. European Dam Day

Antonella Frigerio presented ITCOLD initiative to organize a European Dam Day -similar to the Hydropower Day that was recently organized on Brussels by the ETIP Hydropower-. This activity is also in the line to raise public awareness on dams.

The idea would be to promote events related to dams on the same day. Some possible activities could be:

- Visit to dams.
- Sport activities around dams and reservoirs.
- Informational/educational conferences.

The Board welcomed and approved the initiative, to be organized by the Ad Hoc working group on Public Awareness Strategies (see next Item).

9. Proposal of new EWG and Ad-Hoc

President Lazaridou presented the proposal of an **Ad-Hoc working group on Public Awareness Strategies**. She started pointing out the concern that the importance of dams is not only generally unknown to the society but also that anti-dam community is communicating very effectively their messages. She showed examples of flyers and videos from anti-dam institutions:

- Dam Removal Europe: www.damremoval.eu
- DamNation: The problem with hydropower. Patagonia films (available on Youtube)

Finally, she also explained that some child-specific films (like Disney's Frozen 2) give a negative message on dams, which will be difficult to reverse.

Thus, public awareness on dams should be considered a key topic for the dam sector in general and EurCOLd in particular. In line with this, she proposed the creation on an Ad-Hoc working group, co-coordinated with ITCOLD, to brainstorm and to share experiences on feasible strategies towards communicating and disseminating the benefits of dams to the public.

The Board unanimously highlighted the importance of public awareness and approved the creation of this group.

Peter Mulvihill, Chair of the ICOLD TC on Public Awareness, who was invited to the Board meeting, welcomed the creation this Ad-Hoc working group, and gave some ideas on the topic:

- Engineers are not good communicators; they need help of journalist and media-communicators.
- Although communicating to children may be the aim, the main target should be the teachers.
- An effective action is the visit to dams, as people could see how thing are done and some concerns minimized. This is very popular in Japan.
- Long term thinking is important to communicate why dams are fundamental.

Guido Mazzà, also welcomed the initiative, which is in line with ITCOLD's video and proposals. He completed the view pointing out that negative aspects should also be communicated to public, some of them could not be easily solved and require compromise solutions and balance. There is complexity, he said, and this should not be simplified and must be explained.



Then, Liza Bensasson, presented the proposal by GCOLD and SPANCOLD, to create a ***EWG on Dams in the context of EU policies***. The aim of this working group will be to create a unified point of reference on the interaction of Integrated River Basin Management policies -with focus on EU Water Framework Directive- and dams and reservoirs. To that end, the EWG will compare and analyse across both similar and varying political, social, environmental, and economic habitats of Europe, including in transboundary river basins:

- I. The contribution of dams and reservoirs in the integrated river basin management.
- II. The effect of the EU WFD after more than 20 years of application on dams' conception, construction, operation, and rehabilitation.

Enrique Cifres, who will serve as coordinator of this EWG, commented that this will also serve as an observatory on the issues related to EU policies affecting dams and reservoirs.

Remy Tourment, co-chair of the EWG on Levees and flood defences, asked to include the levees on the scope.

The proposal (including the recommendation by Mr. Tourment) was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Terms of Reference will be distributed to the National Committees to call for experts to the EWG.

10. ETIP Hydropower

Jean-Jacques Fry reported on the creation and actions of the ETIP Hydropower. This is an EC funded organization, which aims to enhance and disseminate the output - Research & Innovation Agenda (RIA) and Strategic Industry Roadmap (SIR)- of the HYDROPOWER EUROPE Project, and to consolidate the professional network into a sustainable organization which helps to unify the hydropower voices in Europe.

Among its first steps a Hydropower Day was organized in Brussels, on April 2023, with four thematic sessions and the participation, among others, of Sera Lazaridou, Anton Schleiss and Jean-Jacques Fry.

The next steps are:

- To hold a webinar to inform on the ETIP activities (scheduled on the 27th of June 2023)
- To constitute the Governing Board (open call for candidacies by the end of August).
- To carry out a consultation on "Priorities for a self-sustaining and unifying hydropower association".
- To hold the 1st General Assembly (scheduled for November 2023).



Information could be found on: www.etip-hydropower.eu

Jean-Jacques Fry asked the National Committees to disseminate the information and to encourage their members to participate in the activities (consultations, governing structures and working groups). He pointed out that there are some countries with a significant number of participants (France, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden) while others with none of testimonial participation.

The Board acknowledges the work done by Jean-Jacques Fry and Anton Schleiss, promoting and piloting this initiative.

11. Activities of the European Working Groups (EWG) and Task Forces (TF).

The Secretary explained that as there will be two Board meetings in 2023, the report on the activities of most EWG will be done in Interlaken. Being the EWG on Penstocks and Pressure shafts and the TF on Dams and territories, reporting at this meeting. They gave the following information:

- Antonella Frigerio presented the activities of the **EWG on penstocks and pressure shafts**. The bulletin index is defined, and chapters are assigned and in progress. An open workshop -organized with the support of ITCOLD- was held in November 2022 in Milano, with more than 200 participants. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Interlaken. Themes to be discussed will be: i) country standards for design and assessment, ii) advancement of the bulletin, and iii) organization of the next workshop.
- Guido Mazzà presented an overview of the activities of the **TF on Dams and territories**. Since 2014 ITCOLD carried out 8 workshops, to promote proactivity of dam owners and to understand the stakeholder's perception on dams, with the aim to improve cooperation and enhance public awareness. The next one will be held in Caserta (Italy) in Autumn 2023.

The Board acknowledged the important work done by both working groups.

12. News from National Committees

Piotr Śliwiński, on behalf of POLCOLD, presented the XX Technical Dam Control International Conference (www.tkz.is.pw.edu.pl), to be held in Chorzów (Poland), on September 2023. Covering topics on dam safety, operation, hydraulics, hydropower, sustainability, and waterways. A special session on the 140th anniversary of the Silesian Waterworks Company will be also held.

The Secretary asked the National Committees to send information of future activities to have a schedule to be included in the webpage, social media, and the Letters from the President.

13. Miscellaneous aspects

Monique Sanders, exposed that in November 2021, Dr. Arend Kolhoff, of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment, was invited by the Board to



give a presentation on the added value of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for development of the hydropower sector. Now the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) -with the contribution of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment- is developing the “SEA good practice guidelines supporting energy transition / renewables sector”. The draft will be available soon and it would be grateful if EurCOLD could provide expert support to review the upcoming document.

The Board welcomed the initiative and approved to make a call for experts to all National Committees.

Finally, Enrique Cifres encouraged a short introduction on the creation of a Dam Safety Society in India.

Sera Lazaridou
President

Alfredo Granados
Secretary General



EurCOLD Board Meeting 11th June 2023 – Attendance list

President: Sera Lazaridou

Secretary General: Alfredo Granados

COUNTRY	PRESIDENT	Present/Absent/Substitute	SECRETARY	Present/Absent/Substitute
ALBANIA	Arjan Jovani	A		
AUSTRIA	Gerald Zenz	P	Helmut Knoblauch	A
BELGIUM	Thibaut Mouzelard	A	Nathalie Potmans	A
BULGARIA	Dimitar Kisiakov	A	Teodora Opalchenska	A
CZECH REPUBLIC	Ladislav Satrapa	A	Milan Zukal	P
FINLAND	Jyrki Kotola	A	Eija Isomäki	P
FRANCE	Denis Aelbrecht	P	Anne Clutier	A
GERMANY	Dirk Carstensen	P	Uwe Müller (General Director)	P
GREECE	Rea Papachatzaki	S (George Dounias)	Sera Lazaridou	P
ICELAND	Gudlaugur Thorarinsson	A		
IRELAND	Mark Fielding	A	Cathal Smith	A
ITALY	Giovanni Ruggeri	S (Guido Mazzà)	Rosella Caruana	P
LUXEMBOURG	Tom Eischen	A		
NETHERLANDS	Monique Sanders	P	Marcel Bottema	P
NORTH MACEDONIA	Ljupcho Petkovski	P	Slavko Milevski	A



COUNTRY	PRESIDENT	Present/Absent/Substitute	SECRETARY	Present/Absent/Substitute
NORWAY	Anne Marit Ruud	P	Goranka Grzanic	P
POLAND	Piotr Sliwinski	P	Aneta Krawczyk	A
PORTUGAL	Nuno Lacasta	A	Paulo Buisson Castro	A
ROMANIA	Catalin Popescu	A	Iulian Asman	P
RUSSIA	Sergey Machekhin	A	Victor Solovarov	A
SLOVAKIA	Emilia Bednárová	P	Marian Minárik	P
SLOVENIA	Nina Humar	P		
SPAIN	Carlos Granell Ninot	S (Alfredo Granados)	F. Javier Baztán Moreno	A
SWEDEN	Maria Bartsch	P	Finn Midbøe	P
SWITZERLAND	Robert Boes	P	Andrea Balestra	A
TURKEY	Kaya Yildiz	A	Dincer Aydogan	A
UNITED KINGDOM	Rachel Davies	S (Andrew Thompson)	Moira Doherty	A

ICOLD Vice-President for Europe (2019-2023): Enrique Cifres (P)
ICOLD Vice-President for Europe (2022-2024): Laurent Mouvet (P)

ETIP Hydropower: Jean-Jacques Fry (P) – Anton Schleiss (P)

EWG on Internal erosion: Stéphane Bonelli (A)
EWG on Overtopping and overflowing erosion: Jean-Robert Courivaud (P)
EWG on Dams and earthquakes: Guillaume Veylon (A)
EWG on Levees: Rémy Tourment (P)
EWG on Penstocks and pressure shafts: Antonella Frigerio (P)
TF on Dams and territories: Guido Mazzà (P)



OBSERVERS (Name and Country):

Peter Mulvihill (New Zealand, Chair of the ICOLD TC on Public Awareness and education)

Liza Bensasson (Greece)

Marie Westberg Wilde (Sweden)

Andrej Kryžanowski (Slovenia)

Francisco Ortega (Germany/Spain)

Suzanne Lacasse (Norway)

Wynfrith Riemer (Luxembourg)

Konstantinos Andrianopoulos (UK)

Sofia Nalpantidou (Greece)

Annika Bjelkevik (Sweden)

Per Elvnejd (Sweden, Vicepresident of SwedCOLD)

Christophe Peteuil (France)