

## **Letter from the President (1<sup>st</sup> May 2022)**

Dear President,

### **Our next board meeting**

After two years of fighting the Covid19 virus, we will finally be able to meet together face to face in Marseille at the board meeting on Saturday May 28th at 16:30.

### **The ETIP HYDROPOWER (2022-2025) will be led by EurCOLD**

During this meeting, we will celebrate a very important event: EURCOLD will lead the implementation of the European Technology Innovation Platform (ETIP) HYDROPOWER and then of the permanent association of hydropower and dams from 2022 to 2025. Indeed, the HYDROPOWER EUROPE consortium has won the HORIZON-CL5-2021-D3-02-15 call for tenders.

### **What is a European Technology Innovation Platform (ETIP)?**

Our meeting will be an opportunity to explain in more detail the stakes of this future ETIP HYDROPOWER.

An ETIP is a group of volunteers, who contribute to develop the disruptive technologies of the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan energy policy.

What is the SET Plan? The SET Plan is the EC's structure gathering representatives of Members States for accelerating the Energy Transition. It wants all technologies to participate by 2022.

The HORIZON-CL5-2021-D3-02-15 call was launched to select and fund an organisation administrating the hydropower sector to participate in the ETIP HYDROPOWER.

The consortium HYDROPOWER EUROPE led by EURCOLD will be this organisation in charge of administrating the ETIP HYDROPOWER.

Why not an ETIP DAMS? An ETIP for dams is not accepted by the European Commission. It is why dams are under the umbrella of ETIP HYDROPOWER.

The ETIP HYDROPOWER will allow:

1. **Direct representation & participation** of hydropower within the SET Plan, giving a unified voice to the European Commission.
2. Implementation of a **financially sustainable HYDROPOWER EUROPE Forum in 2025** (at the end of the 3 years funded by EC).

## What could be the benefits of this ETIP for your National Committee?

The ETIP HYDROPOWER will give us a direct access to the European Commission to:

1. propose to **fund research and innovation projects** whose aim would be to improve the safety of our dams, especially since war has reappeared in Europe, to reduce the environmental impact and to better protect biodiversity.
2. **recall the benefits of dams** at a time when global warming is increasingly impacting our lifestyles and to discuss how future reservoirs could be useful to society and **encouraged by regulation**.

The Research and Innovation Agenda (RIA) of HYDROPOWER EUROPE has listed an important need for funding to tackle the challenges of the next 10 years (Table 1).

Research challenges for the next 10 years	Recommended funding range (million €)	
	58	75
Increasing flexibility	58	75
Optimisation of operations and maintenance	18	32
Resilience of electro-mechanical equipment and infrastructures	42	82
Development of new emerging concepts	32	55
Environmentally compatible solutions and mitigation of the impact of global warming	40	65

Table 1. Recommended funding from the wide consultation programme undertaken by HYDROPOWER EUROPE

You could notice that Research and Innovation needs for dams are included in all these challenges. However, the EC could not fund the whole RIA. Anticipating this lack of funding, the ETIP will propose three types of services facilitating research for industry and supporting easier more cost-effective access to R&D funding.

1. **Participation in a small projects program** (for instance, a professor, a researcher or an innovator could suggest a research project based on his own innovative concept, organisations motivated by this concept could fund his research project).
2. **Facilitating collaborative R&I actions** between industry partners (for instance, big players, utilities, engineering companies or manufacturers having the same research

target (safety, environment, communication) can share together their budget, reduce their cost and enlarge the outputs of the research).

3. **Tracking and flagging National, European & International research funding opportunities** (for instance, drafting collaborative bids to European calls).

## How your National Committee could be involved?

During our Board meeting, we will discuss the following questions to better integrate your national committee to define and refine the focus, structure and balance of the HYDROPOWER EUROPE Forum (Table 2).

Does your committee support this funding and advocating approach?
Are there other aspects / priorities which are missing?
Within the R&I facilitation structure, are there aspects of greater priority than others?
Within the ‘unified voice’ approach, are there aspects of greater priority than others?
What are the main messages you want to communicate to the European decision-makers?
What collaborative strategic actions are you ready to launch?
How much are people / organisations prepared to pay to support such an association?
Is a phased approach to implementation, correct?
Could we complement existing services more strongly (capacity building, communication)?

Table 2. Questions where your opinion will be appreciated during the Board meeting

With our best regards,

Jean-Jacques Fry,  
*President of EURCOLD*



Alfredo Granados,  
*Secretary General of EURCOLD*

