

**AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)
New Delhi, India
07 December 2009: 09.30-13:15 hours**

Year of Establishment: 1995

Members : (1) Vice President Dr.-Ing. Eiko Luebbe, Chairman (Germany, 2002); (2) Vice President Prof. Dr. Peter Kovalenko, Vice Chairman (Ukraine, 2005); (3) Dr. Laszlo Hayde, Secretary (Hungary, 2005); (4) Vice President Hon. Prof. Dr. Brane Maticic (Slovenia, 1996); (5) Dr. Michele Angelo Cuccaro (Italy, 1996); (6) Prof. Dr. Ion Nicolaesco (Romania, 1996); (7) Mr. Pedro Eduardo da Cunha Serra (Portugal, 1996); (8) Mr. Nicos Tsiourtis (Cyprus, 1996); (9) Prof. Dr. Svatopluk Matula (Czech Rep., 1997); (10) Dr. Antanas Maziliauskas (Lithuania, 1997); (11) Dipl.-Ing. Frederick M. Cate (Austria, 1998); (12) Vice President Hon. Dr. Ricardo Segura (Spain, 1999); (13) Vice President Hon. Dr. Henri Tardieu (France, 1999); (14) Mr. Jaakko Sierla (Finland, 2001); (15) Dr. Davor Romic (Croatia, 2002); (16) Dr. Zvonimir Vukelic (Macedonia, 2002); (17) Mr. Mati Tonismae (Estonia, 2002); (18) Prof. Dr. A. Poulouvassilis (Greece, 2003); (19) Dr. John Martin (Ireland, 2003); (20) Mr. Peter Pantelic (Serbia, 2003); (21) Dr. Pol Hakstege (The Netherlands, 2007); (22) Dr. Irina G. Pankova (Russia, 2007); (23) Mr. Claude Alain Vullier (Switzerland, 2007); and (24) Secretary General, ICID.

Observer : (i) Mr. Mohammed Binbilidia (IME, France) and (ii) Prof. Dr. Joachim Quast (Germany).

Ex-Officio Members : (i) Vice President Prof. Dr. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine), Chairman, ERWG Work Team on Sustainable Irrigation Management; and (ii) Vice President Hon. Dr. G.G. Gulyuk (Russia), Chairman, ERWG Work Team on Drainage.

ERWG Website : <<http://www.erwg.icidonline.org>>.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 14th meeting of the Working Group

The minutes of the 14th meeting of the Working Group held on 14 October 2008 at Lahore (Pakistan) will be confirmed.

An interim meeting was held on 17 May 2009 in Lviv, Ukraine during the 23rd European Regional Conference 2009. Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Spain, Ukraine and Central Office were present and participated in the meeting. The outcome of the meeting will be considered during this meeting.

Item 2 : Review of membership of the Working Group

Central Office requested (04 May 2009) the British National Committee of ICID (ICID.UK) to send a fresh nomination of a professional for the membership of the European Regional Working Group (ERWG) for consideration during the ERWG meeting at New Delhi (2009), India. Response is awaited.

The National Committees of Belgium, Bulgaria, Poland and Slovak Republic have become inactive in the past. The Central Office is in contact (17 February 2009) with these National Committees for their reactivation. The Central Office has also invited (18 March 2009) Albania, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Norway and Sweden for fresh ICID membership. In response, Sweden has informed (01 June 2009) that they are exploring ways to join ICID. Responses from others are awaited.

Item 3 : Links with regional and transnational organizations for co-operation

The Chairman may apprise the members on new developments/cooperation especially with regard to EWA (European Water Association), the International Commissions for Protection of the Rivers Rhine, Danube, and Odra. The ERWG network includes 7 National Water Management Associations (**Annex 1**).

Contacts have been renewed with the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (Dr. Ardakanian, Bonn in Germany). ICID-UNU co-operation commenced during the year in an activity in Tehran – organized by UNU with IRNCID cooperation. Though this particular activity was held outside Europe, this might of interest to ERWG, when dealing with this agenda item.

The German Water Historic Society together with GECID received the Iranian technical group from IRNCID at Kassel in Germany, for an extended excursion on water management issues from 8-18 August 2009. VP was present for one day. Dr. Röttcher may apprise the members.

The ERWG members may apprise on further developments / cooperation from their NCs.

Item 4 : Feedback on River Basin Management Projects supported by ERWG

Two projects with German participation were '*Water Management Tasks in the Summer Polders of the Nemunas Lowland*' together with Lithuania and "*Flood Modelling in the Upper Dnister Valley*" together with Ukraine. Prof. Joachim Quast (Germany) informed that these projects have now been finalised and the results would be published in English. The cooperation with both Lithuania and Ukraine will continue.

The co-operation with Ukraine was done within the framework of the joint Ukraine / German UNESCO research project "Transformation Processes in the Dnister Region (Western Ukraine) – Concept Development for Sustainable Land Use". The results of the Dnister project were published as a book, which was presented to the WG. A special symposium on the Dnister Project was held as a part of the ERC2009 at Lviv in Ukraine. The 'Lviv Declaration' that emerged at the end of the Conference is attached (**Annex 2**). This could provide the basis for further research cooperation.

Upon successful completion of new education and training programs on knowledge for the application of best practices of river basin management by Dr. Laszlo Hayde (*UNESCO-IHE in the Netherlands*) in cooperation with Prof. Istvan Ijjas (former Secretary of ERWG), the Budapest University of Technology, the members were encouraged to contact the ministries in their countries for similar initiatives and explore ideas on further utilization of the available training materials. ICID Central Office is in contact (04 May 2009) with the members of the ERWG for progress, if any. The WG members feel that lifelong learning is the key issue here.

The Chairman may initiate discussions on further course of action.

Item 5 : Dialogue on Water for Food and Environment

It has been agreed to continue the co-operation among ICID-ERWG, Central and Eastern Europe Global Water Partnership (CEE-GWP) and World Wide Fund of Nature (WWF).

The Chairman asked the members to maintain cooperation with the CEE-GWP and WWF, e.g. called their attention to participate in the conferences organized by ICID, like the drainage conference held in Helsinki (Finland) and Tallin (Estonia). FINCID invited them but without any success.

ERWG members continued the dialogue on the following topic: the WFD and its implementation through tools of the Common Agriculture Policy in the years 2007-2013. The new Directives can be accessed at following websites:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/wfd_newsletter.html> or
<<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/>>

The Chairman will apprise the members on the above dialogue.

Item 6 : European Work Team on Water Related Risk Analysis (EWTWRA)

The idea of merging of Drought and Flood Work Teams under the frame of Risk Management had been brought (2007) to the fore by Dr. Vermes (Hungary). After detailed discussions on the proposed aims, the WG accepted the idea of merging European Work Team on Drought (EWTDRO) and European Work Team on Floods (EWTFFLO) to create a new Work Team under the name Work Team on Water Related Risk Analysis (EWTWRA).

The WG may deliberate on the new mandate of the WT and its membership. It seems appropriate to consider the impacts of extreme events on agricultural production at situations of water scarcity and inundation and to develop risk mitigation strategies. The proposals from ITALCID, HUCID and GECID have been discussed (2008). Dr. Sandor SZALAI, who has prepared the Hungarian proposal was not, available for discussion and hence, the further discussion was postponed.

The Chairman / Dr. Sandor Szalai may apprise the members.

Item 7 : ERWG Work Team on EU Water Framework Directive (EWTWFD)

The tasks for EWTWFD had been confirmed in Montpellier (2003) but in the absence of WT Chairman, the work of EWTWFD could not progress enough.

As time has passed and member countries are heavily involved in the implementation of the EU WFD, the WG proposed to skip the Work Team and bring forward this topic in the planned WIKI-based electronic platform (Item 11).

The Chairman may apprise the members.

Item 8 : European Work Team on Sustainable Irrigation Management (EWTSIM)

A document, title "*Irrigation Sector Reform in Central and Eastern European Countries*", based on the project results (Phase I), has been published and distributed as hard copy and CD during the previous meeting of the WG. Vice President Prof. Kovalenko later distributed a new proposal for the Phase II of the project "*Irrigation Sector Reform in Central and Eastern European Countries*", prepared by the Ukrainian National Committee and Prof. Bart Schultz. Because of financial and organisational problems, this work had to be postponed.

Vice President Prof. Kovalenko was in contact with GTZ to raise the awareness of the problems and explore funding opportunities. The new report (incorporating new irrigation technologies, water saving, efficiency, etc.) may serve as a 'manual' for GTZ to raise the awareness.

The WT Chairman may apprise the members.

Item 9 : European Work Team on Drainage (EWTDRA)

The future activities of the WT were deliberated and specified during the International Drainage Workshop at Helsinki / Tallinn (2008). The activities will, among others, focus on drained non-chernosem soils in technical and organizational terms.

The WT Chairman may further apprise the members.

Item 10 : Conferences supported by ERWG

Feedback from 23rd European Regional Conference of ICID, 2009, Ukraine

The 23rd European Regional Conference (ERC) of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was held during 18 - 21 May 2009 at Lviv, Ukraine. The theme of the ERC was '**Progress in Managing Water for Food and Rural Development**'. The conference was organized by the Ukraine National Committee of ICID (UKCID) in cooperation with the ICID European Regional Working Group (ERWG). Professionals from Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Iran, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and Secretary General, ICID participated in the conference. "Lviv Declaration" is available at **Annex 2**.

24th European Regional Conference of ICID, 2011, The Netherlands

The 24th European Regional Conference of ICID is scheduled to be held on 16-20 May 2011 in the town of Groningen in The Netherlands. The Netherlands National Committee of ICID (NETHCID) has submitted the proposal to the Chairman. The draft proposal for the 24th ERC is available in Annex 4 of the PCTA Agenda (Page A-101). Cooperation with the Working Group on Sustainable Development of Tidal Areas (WG-SDTA) and Working Group on Comprehensive Approaches to Flood Management (WG-CAFM) was initiated by NETHCID.

NETHCID representative may apprise the members.

Conference on Sustainable Agriculture Engineering, 5-8 November 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria

Dr. Peter Dimitrov, Agric. Academy, Research Institute of Land Reclamation and Agric Modernization, Bulgaria, has informed that the Conference on “Sustainable Agriculture Engineering” will be organized during 5-8 November 2009 at Sofia, Bulgaria. Central Office publicized this event through its website and News Update. Representative of Bulgarian National Committee (*or other members, who could participate in this event*) may apprise the ERWG about the event and its outcome.

Item 11 : ERWG Letter Editorial Board

The Editorial Board for the ERWG Letter consists of Dr. Frantisek Dolezal, Dr.-Ing. Eiko Luebbe (Editor), Chairman of GECID and ERWG, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Quast, Secretary of GECID, Prof. Dr. Lajos Szlavik and Dr. Henri Tardieu, President of AFEID.

ERWG Letter 19 (2009) has been published (April 2009) and circulated. Copies of earlier letters can be viewed at <<http://www.erwg.icidonline.org>>. Some hardcopies of earlier issues are still available with the Chair and can be ordered from GECID (E-mail: gecid@zalf.de). Contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Chair at the above e-mail address.

The role of the ERWG Letter for the exchange of information among ERWG members and the possible use of an internet (WIKI-based) information platform will be deliberated.

Item 12 : Young Professional Fora and IPTRID in Europe

The response of Young Professionals at European Regional Conferences (ERC) of ICID is always overwhelming. A Young Professional Forum was planned during the 23rd European Regional Conference at Lviv. Efforts were made to raise funds to support the Young Professionals who were involved in the joint UNESCO German Ukrainian project on the development of the Dnister region from German Ministry of Research and Education.

The Chairman may apprise the members.

Item 13 : Any other business

Prof. Mosony (Germany) died at the age of 99 years. ERWG members offer their condolences to the bereaved family of Prof. Mosony. May his soul rest in peace!

**EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG) OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE (ICID)**

Profile

The European Regional Working Group (ERWG) of ICID was founded at the 46th IEC Meeting in Rome in September 1995, and is acting under the motto “Comprehensive land and water management in European river basins for the sustainable development of the rural landscape”. The tasks of ERWG can be summarized as follows:

- Knowledge transfer and exchange of experience in matters of border crossing water and land management in European countries
- Co-operation of experts and organisations engaged in national, supranational and international objectives of water management and irrigated agriculture
- Development and promotion of border crossing projects and conferences
- Members are the ICID National Committees of 24 European countries, as below :

Country Representatives			
Austria	Mr. Frederick M. Cate	Macedonia	Prof. Zvonimir Vukelic
Croatia	Dr. Davor Romic	Portugal	Mr. Pedro Eduardo da Cunha Serra
Cyprus	Mr. Nicos Tsiourtis	Romania	Prof. Ion M. Nicolaescu
Czech Republic	Prof. Svatopluk Matula	Russia	Dr. Irina G. Pankova
Estonia	Mr. Mati Tonismae	Serbia-Montenegro	Mr. Peter Pantelic
Finland	Mr. Jaakko Sierla	Slovenia	Prof. Brane Maticic
France	Dr. Henri Tardieu	Spain	Mr. Ricardo Segura Graino
Germany	Dr.- Ing. Eiko Luebbe	Switzerland	Mr. Claude Alain Vullier
Greece	Prof. Dr. A. Poulouvassilis	The Netherlands	Dr. Pol Hakstege
Hungary	Dr. Laszlo Hayde	Ukraine	Prof. Peter Kovalenko
Ireland	Dr. John Martin	United Kingdom	---
Italy	Dr. Michele A. Cuccaro		
Lithuania	Dr. Antanas Maziliauskas		

Chairman : Dr.-Ing. Eiko Luebbe (Germany)
Vice-Chairman : Prof. Dr. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine)
Secretary : Dr. Laszlo Hayde (Hungary)
Observer : Mr. Mohammed Benblidia (IME)

Countries with observer status

Bosnia & Herzegovina : Prof. Dr. Mihovil Vlahinic
Moldova : Mr. Valeriu Catrinescu
Serbia : Prof. Dr. Svetimir Dragovic

Subordinate Work Teams**European Work Team on Water Related Risk Analysis (EWTWRA)**

Chairman To be elected (Dr. Sandor Szalai, Hungary)
Members To be elected

European Work Team on EU Water Framework Directive (EWTWFD)

Chairman (N.N.)
Members Mr. Frederick M. Cate (Austria),
 Mr. Vladimir Milovsky (Russia),
 Dr. Pavel Puncochar (Czech Republic),
 Mr. Ricardo Segura Graino (Spain),
 Mr. V. Stavric (Macedonia),
 Mr. Risto Timonen (Finland)

European Work Team on Sustainable Irrigation Management (EWTSIM)

Chairman Prof. Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine)
Members Mrs. Helena Aijo (Finland),
 Mr. Frederick M. Cate (Austria),
 Mr. Jan Cermak (Czech Republic),
 Mr. Eugeny Goussenkov (Russia),
 Mrs. Jasmina Taseva (Macedonia),
 Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Quast (Germany),
 Dr. Olga Zhovtonog, Secretary (Ukraine),
 Mrs. Yldiko Zima Szaloki (Hungary)

Observer World Bank representative

European Work Team on Drainage (EWTDRA)

Chairman Dr. Georgiy G. Gulyuk (Russia)
Members Dr. Irene Bondarik, Secretary (Russia)
 Prof. Brane Maticic (Slovenia),
 Dr. Iulian Mihnea (Romania),
 Mr. Toomas Timmusk (Estonia),
 Dr. Willem Vlotman (Australia),
 Mrs. Marija Vukelic-Sutoska (Macedonia),
 Dr. Nicola Yacik (Ukraine),
 Mr. Daniel Zimmer (France)

Editorial Board of ERWG Letter (EBLET)

Editor Dr.-Ing. Eiko Luebbe (Germany),
Secretary Prof. Dr.-Ing. Joachim Quast
Members Dr. Frantisek Dolezal (Czech Republic),
 Mr. John Hennessy (UK),
 Dr. Lajos Szlávik (Hungary)
 Mr. Henri Tardieu (France)

Water Network

In addition to the European National Committees of ICID, the following organizations/association/institution have been incorporated in the ERWG Water Network :

5 European professional organizations

- CIPR - Commission Internationale pour la Protection du Rhin
- EurAgEng - Special Interest Group on Soil and Water, European Society of Agricultural Engineers
- EWA - European Water Association
- EWRA - European Water Resources Association
- TECHWARE - Technology for Water Resources

7 National Water Management Associations

- BSHE - Bulgarian Society of Hydraulic Engineers
- DWA - German Association for Water Management, Waste Water and Waste
- DONBH - Society for Irrigation and Drainage of Bosnia & Herzegovina
- LZHIS - Lithuanian Association of Land and Water Management Engineers
- MHT - Hungarian Hydrological Society
- RSRE - Russian Society of Reclamation Engineers
- SITWM - Polish Association for Water Plant Construction and Land Improvement Engineers and Technicians

6 European Water Management Institutes

- ACVAPROJECT - Water Management Design Institute (Moldova Republic)
- DHI - Danish Hydraulic Institute
- IIDS - Institute of Irrigation and Development Studies, University of Southampton (United Kingdom)
- RIIDHE - Research Institute for Irrigation, Drainage and Hydraulic Engineering (Bulgaria)
- VITUKI - Water Resources Research Centre Plc. (Hungary)
- IME - Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (France)

Work Results

- ERWG Letter No. 1 to 18 (newsletters)
- European Sector Vision on Water for Food and Rural Development (report)
- ICID Guide "How to work out a drought mitigation strategy" (guideline)
- Water Resources Management in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovenia (book)
- Diffuse Entries in Rivers of the Odra Basin (research report)
- Proceedings of several European conferences
- First and Second CEE WFE Dialogue Reports (Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment – Dialogue on the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in Agriculture in the Central and East European Countries) (reports)
- Danube Valley : History of Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control (book)

Current Projects

- Flood risk mitigation by agricultural non-structural measures
 - Drought mitigation strategies
 - Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive
 - Flood plain management on Odra, Nemunas and Vistula
 - Flood prevention strategies
 - Point and diffused pollutants in the Odra basin
 - Sustainable irrigation and drainage management under the conditions of transitional economy
 - Dialogue on water for food and environmental security in Central and Eastern Europe
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FEEDBACK FROM 23RD EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF ICID, 2009, UKRAINE**'LVIV DECLARATION'**

The 23rd European Regional Conference (ERC) of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was held during 18 - 21 May 2009 at Lviv, Ukraine. The theme of the ERC was **'Progress in Managing Water for Food and Rural Development'**. The conference was organized by the Ukraine National Committee of ICID (UKCID) in cooperation with the ICID European Regional Working Group (ERWG). Professionals from Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Iran, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and ICID participated in the conference and discussed the various keynotes and papers.

The Conference placed high emphasis on the issues related to flood control, water demands, GIS technologies and application in the field of water management. The special theme was dedicated to the climate change in view of frequent floods and droughts observed in Europe. Special attention was given to the development of management plans for river basins.

The 23rd European Regional Conference concluded with following Declaration/Recommendation:

1. The conference papers highlighted the good 'on-going' development with respect to integrated management of water and land resources both with respect to policy related developments (stakeholder participation, actual implementation, modeling, data collection, and storage) and their dissemination.
2. More and more projects were being developed and implemented in an integrated way by taking into account social conditions with stakeholder participation. Possible impacts of climate change including technical, economical, gender, and environmental aspects are getting addressed. However, more need to be done to improve these aspects. This will be especially important during the operation and maintenance phase of rural development projects. It is in this phase that the benefits of projects are really realized.
3. Primarily due to human activities and to a certain extent due to the impacts of climate change, the effects and impacts of floods and droughts are significantly increasing in many places. Therefore, it is increasingly important that in the development of projects, both the present day conditions as well as the envisaged mid-term and long-term scenarios are taken into account in the decision-making process. In the light of this, the European Water Framework Directive and the European Flood Directive are important guiding documents that have to be implemented jointly.
4. For improved coordination of the wide range of activities for rural development at different spatial levels, like integrated land and water management, river basin management, rural development and spatial planning, it is recommended to update legislation and organizational structures where relevant.
5. There is an urgent need to strengthen international water legislation for protection of water rights for agriculture in order to support sustainable and integrated water management - irrigation and/or drainage, dependent on the local conditions - as a requirement to guarantee food security.

The conference recorded its appreciation to the activities of the Inter-state Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia in the framework of cooperation of the five states - Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kirgizstan - on trans-boundary waters under the conditions of climate change and felt that it could be an example for the trans-boundary cooperation in other river basins.

The conference also supported the development of a Russian speaking network of water management specialists that was initiated in the Moscow meeting of January 2009 and recommends that scientific organizations join the network.

Agreed actions

- To increase food production significantly, through sustainable rural development in the forthcoming decades by realizing the potential of several of the European countries, like Ukraine, it was agreed (*by several parties*) that an initiative will be taken for a joint project on '*Integrated Water Management*' for improving food production in European countries. The ICID European Working Group will take the initiative to prepare a proposal in cooperation with the potential partners.
- To improve the network for European young professionals in the water management sector to be initiated jointly by UKCID and GECID. They will also promote joint activities like research projects, exchanges, summer schools, etc.
- To review and further develop the activities of Work Team on Sustainable Irrigation Management (WT-SIM) in light of integrated rural development.

Lviv, Ukraine
21 May 2009

Acknowledgement:
VP Peter Kovalenko, UKCID
VP Eiko Lübbe
Chair, ERWG
