

**MINUTES FOR THE 25TH MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)**

05 September 2019, 09:00-11:00 hours (Session-I)

05 September 2019, 11:15-13:15 hours (Session-II)

Bali, Indonesia

Presented by the Chairman

Year of Establishment: 1995

Mandate: The mission of ERWG is to promote awareness about critical ICID relevant water issues at all levels in Europe and to pay special attention to the environmentally sustainable water management in Europe.

Members Present: (1) Vice President Hon. Ian Makin (UK), Chairman; (2) Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland), Secretary; (3) VPH Laszlo Hayde (Hungary); and (3) Dr. (Mrs.) Irena G. Bondarik (Russia).

Observers: (i) PH Bart Schultz (The Netherlands); (ii) Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Röttcher (Germany); (iii) Dr. Rollin Dominique (France); and (iv) Mr. Vincent Bernard (France).

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

ERWG Minutes Item 1: Action Taken Report by Chair

1. Vice President Hon. Ian Makin (UK), Chair of the WG presented a report on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals of the European Regional Working Group (ERWG) at its 24th meeting held at Saskatoon, Canada in August 2018.

2. During the meeting, WG Chair VPH Ian Makin reported that he has retired from International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and returned to UK in April 2019. Now, he is able to increase his attention in the ERWG matters. Specifically, this has enabled increased involvement with the Irrigation and Water Forum (IWF/ICID.UK) and a more direct exposure to the apparent disconnect of members interests from those of the broader ICID membership outside Europe (*see discussion in Agenda item 1.1*).

3. No new nominations for the membership of the ERWG were received from NCs during the year. Present membership status of ERWG is at **Annex 4 (page 27)**.

ERWG Minutes Item 1.1: Strengthening the membership in Europe

4. The Working Group discussed the current strengths and concerns among the various NCs represented at the meeting. In addition, the strong efforts by Vice President Dr. Irene G. Bondarik (Russia) and Dr. Marco Arcieri (Italy) to encourage currently inactive member countries and potential new members were appreciated. Encouraging signals have been received from Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia and Estonia and VP Bondarik will continue to work with her contacts in these countries to further strengthen their participation in ICID activities. Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Röttcher (Germany) reported that a new Association for Sustainable Irrigation has been established representing about 40% of the irrigated area in Germany. However, the membership is not currently able to meet the international fees to be a member of ICID. Dr. Dominique Rollin (France) reported that AFEID had discussed continued participation in ICID and confirmed the commitment to 2021. WG Chair reported that similar discussions are emerging in the Irrigation and Water Forum (IWF/ICID.UK) as the majority of IWF members are not active stakeholders in the international ICID program and question the benefit of membership.

5. The Group discussed and agreed that concerted efforts are required to demonstrate the value of membership of ICID to the European members and other candidate countries. Proposed activities are summarized in subsequent agenda items.

ERWG Minutes Item 2: Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 –Status of Activities relevant to European Region

6. The WG reviewed the Action Plan (Road Map to ICID Vision 2030) and reported to PCSO the current status and proposed actions on the following three activities which were agreed:

(1) Strategy B1: Supporting Development of Appropriate Policies: The review of relevant policies in Europe is delayed. However, President Hon Bart Schultz (The Netherlands) confirmed that he will prepare a summary of the relevant policy documents, noting these are all in the public domain. VPH Lazlo Hayde (Hungary) requested the RWG to support the request from Hungary to circulate a questionnaire among members on national legislation and regulations to assist the Govt. of Hungary in the development of an updated water policy. Dr. Bernard Vincent (France) observed that there are growing concerns about the policy and regulations on agricultural drainage and

environmental concerns in specific agricultural areas. Consideration will be given to organizing a consultation among European countries to discuss these policies and impacts on agricultural drainage and farm operations. The consultation may be WebEx /Virtual meeting during Q2/Q3 2020. The ERWG supported the proposed questionnaire. VPH Hayde will coordinate with NC of Hungary to update and circulate the questionnaire to member countries.

(2) Strategy C3: Promoting Regional Cooperation: The Baltic States Drainage workshop is held annually. VP Bondarik reported on the 2019 event held in May 2019 at Lithuania, in which 8 countries participated. It was noted that the next event will be held in 2020 at Latvia.

7. VP Bondarik informed the members of the RWG that a conference to celebrate 98 years of research will be held from 24-26 November 2019 at Moscow, Russia. She also reported that President ICID Er. Felix B. Reinder will also be invited to the Agricultural Exhibition in October 2019.

8. Dr. Dominique Rollin confirmed that a workshop on Water Saving in Irrigation will be held from 13-14 November 2019 at Montpellier, France. In this regard, the participation is restricted to about 200 with free registration. However, the registration of the participation is essential. Dr Dominique requested Members to visit Conference website <<https://watersaving.sciencesconf.org>> for more information.

9. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP) will hold a conference on Drought from 11-15 December 2019 at Paris, France. It was noted that the Association Française pour l'Etude des Irrigations et du Drainage (AFEID), French National Committee of ICID will be involved during the conference.

(3) Strategy F1: Enhancing Institutional Capacity Development in Member Countries: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Röttcher (Germany) reported that a new e-learning course on Solar Irrigation has been developed and implemented. This is available in English, with preparation of French and German language versions planned. He requested members to visit “Solar Powered Irrigation System” at www.wasser-suederburg.de/pages/page/spis for more information.

ERWG Minutes Item 3: Seminar/Session of the WG related to Agricultural Water Management in Europe

10. The RWG discussed seminars/sessions held/to be held by member countries relevant to Agricultural Water Management in Europe. RWG specifically noted following events:

11. AFEID will organize a two-day Conference on ‘Water savings achieved with changes in irrigation equipment or practices’ from 13-14 November 2019 at Montpellier, France. Dr. Dominique Rollin, Secretary General of AFEID, informed the members that registration is limited to about 200 but is now open and free, see the conference website at <<https://watersaving.sciencesconf.org>>

12. The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and the University of Basilicata (DiCEM Department) in association with Italian NC (ITAL-ICID) organized the “IX International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops” at Matera, Italy during 17-20 June 2019. VP Dr Marco Arcieri (Italy) confirmed the meeting was successfully held.

ERWG Minutes Item 4: Review of policy issues impacting irrigation and drainage sector

13. It was discussed and reported under agenda item under Action plan (*refer item 2 above*).

ERWG Minutes Item 5: Links with regional and trans-national organizations for co-operation

14. The WG discussed the need to strengthen linkages among relevant organizations in each member country and also across the European region. Consideration of how to approach this will be discussed during a proposed WebEx meeting in early 2020.

ERWG Minutes Item 6: Activities of Focus Groups of ERWG

15. During the meeting, the focus groups’ activities were discussed briefly, and it was noted that each focus group is due to meet after the ERWG meeting.

ERWG Minutes Item 7: Creation of a Task Force on Legislative Framework on Agricultural Drought Mitigation for European Regional (TF-DMD)

16. During the meeting, the creation of a Task Force on Legislative Framework on Agricultural Drought Mitigation for European Regional (TF-DMD) was discussed, but members were not aware of the details. WG Chair agreed to discuss this issue with the Dr Marco/ICID CO to obtain more details/information and report to ERWG.

ERWG Minutes Item 8: Dissemination of activities of WG**ERWG Agenda Item 8.1: Website of the Group**

17. No action was reported on the current web site. However, efforts will be made in 2019/20 to invigorate the website and to include links to the various initiatives discussed during the WG meeting.

ERWG Agenda Item 8.2: Webinar / Web-based Seminar

18. The Solar Irrigation e-learning website (www.wasser-suederburg.de/pages/page/spis) will be linked to the ERWG website and publicized among regional members and more broadly to ICID members.

19. VPH Makin (UK) reported that the IWF/ICID.UK hold two technical meetings, annually. The Annual Gerald Lacey Lecture is broadcast live through web streaming, visit <https://iwaterforum.org.uk/events/events/technical-meetings-for-more-information>.

20. The RWG proposed to hold a WebEx/Virtual meeting with all European NC about 6 weeks after WIF-3 to inform the NCs of their activities at WIF. ICID CO will be requested to assist in contacting the NCs in Europe to organize this WebEx meeting. The RWG also requested ICID CO to organize a Doodle Poll for a WebEx meeting to be held in February 2020 for the members of the ERWG to follow-up on proposed activities described, as above.

ERWG Minutes Item 9: Any other business

21. Dr. Dominique Rollin (France), Secretary General, AFEID reported that he will coordinate between ERWG and the TF-WWF9.



