

**MINUTES OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)**

14 August 2018, 09:00-10.30 hours (Session-I)

14 August 2018, 11:00-12.30 hours (Session-II)

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

**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 Ian Makin (UK), Chairman; (2) Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland) represented by Mrs. Helena Äijö; (3) Dr. Sami Bourfa (France) represented by Dr. Dominique Rollin; (4) VPH Dr. Laszlo Hayde (Hungary); (5) Dr. Marco Arcieri (Italy); (6) Dr. (Mrs.) Irene G. Bondarik (Russia); (7) Vice President Prof. Charlotte de Fraiture (The Netherlands); and (8) Mr. Hannes Puu (Estonia).

**Observers:** (i) PH Peter S. Lee (UK); (ii) PH Bart Schultz (The Netherlands); and (iii) Dr. Herve Plusquellec (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 at its 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting held at Mexico City, Mexico in October 2017.
2. WG Chair informed that no virtual meetings of the WG could take place since the last meeting of the WG in Mexico in October 2017.
3. No new nominations for membership of the ERWG were received from NCs during the year. Present membership status of ERWG is at **Annex 3 (page 51)**.

**ERWG Minutes Item 1.1: Strengthening the membership in Europe**

4. There was a lively discussion about the development of ICID membership among countries in Europe. The WG members noted that there have been repeated occurrence of extreme weather events in Europe in recent years and there appears to be an evident need for specialists with expertise aligned with ICID membership. ICID can facilitate networking among specialists and contact with other relevant entities, such as FAO and other UN organizations. However, the WG noted that the members and sponsors of the National Committees in some European member countries are questioning the benefits of membership of ICID. This suggests, the ICID “value proposition” is no longer sufficiently attractive in the context of the European countries. The ERWG members proposed to discuss, through WebEx, what form of value proposition would be relevant to European regional countries to (i) retain current members; (ii) re-engage with the current associate member countries; and (iii) attract new member countries and/or individual members of ICID.

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

5. The Group reviewed the Action Plan (Road Map to ICID Vision 2030) for European Regional Working Group (ERWG) shown in **Annex**. As discussed in the following sections, progress towards the 2018 milestones on the three goals: (i) B1 – Supporting development of appropriate policies; (ii) C3 - Promoting regional cooperation; and (iii) F1 – Enhancing institutional capacity development in member countries is less than planned. As noted below, Para 6, the ERWG is working towards support for drought mitigation policy guidance; and, Para 7, the Group noted that the proposed workshop on agricultural water management could not be held in Saskatoon, however in order to enable maximum participation of European members it may be appropriate to hold a workshop alongside the Baltic region workshop in 2019. To support regional cooperation and knowledge sharing, AFEID drew attention to a two-day workshop on evaluation of irrigation materials for certification of eligibility for inclusion in applications for subsidies for replacement of irrigation infrastructure for water saving.

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

6. ERWG discussed a proposal for a workshop during Third World Irrigation Forum (WIF3) to be held in September 2019 at Bali, Indonesia on the preparation of a legislative framework for mitigating drought in Europe. The proposed workshop would develop a document, a guideline, or scoping document for a potential ICID Task Force on drought mitigation. Dr. Marco Arcieri agreed to coordinate the development of activities that could lead eventually to a workshop at WIF3 in Bali. A submission to PCTA is proposed for consideration in Bali in 2019 for development of a new task force.

7. The proposed workshop on agricultural water management (AWM) was not held in Canada. The ERWG agreed that a workshop on AWM in Europe would be unlikely to attract a large participation in Bali and therefore will not be scheduled for WIF3 in Bali 2019; however, it may be possible to schedule a workshop back-to-back with the Baltic Drainage seminar; held annually in May or June.

8. AFEID will arrange a two-day conference in Montpellier in autumn 2019. The event will bring together European actors from the agricultural profession (chambers of agriculture), the management authorities of the PDRRs (Regional Rural Development Plans), the Technical Institutes, and research organizations. The objectives of this conference are:

- (a). Share the methodologies used in the various European countries for the ex-ante evaluation of irrigation materials for potential water savings and eligibility for European subsidy payments;
- (b). Present the French methodology, established by IRSTEA at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture; and
- (c). Share feedback on water savings achieved by a change of equipment or adoption of piloting tools in different countries.

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

9. Dr. Marco Arcieri (Italy) will look at the history of the framework directive. PH Bart Schultz (The Netherlands) and VPH Laszlo Hayde (Hungary) agreed to support him.

10. The International Symposium organized by ISHS – International Society for Horticultural Science, will be held in June 2019 at Matera, Italy.

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

11. The WG reviewed the list (Annex 3 Agenda page 3, 67-68) of cooperating organizations, reducing the list to organizations with a reasonable expectation of collaboration in the coming years.

**ERWG Minutes Item 6: Activities of Focus Groups of ERWG**

12. Members of the ERWG are active in a range of ICID working groups and task forces. However, the following five Focus groups are considered, particularly relevant to Europe:

- (a). Focus Group on History (VPH Laszlo Hayde), WH-HIST;
- (b). Focus Group on Environment (Mrs. Seija Virtanen);
- (c). Focus Group on Sustainable Drainage renamed as Working Group on Sustainable Drainage, WG-SDRG (Bernard Vincent; Dr. Irena Bondarik);
- (d). Focus Group on Water Related Risks (Prof. Klaus Roettcher & Mr. Olli-Matti Verta), and
- (e). Focus Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-economic Transformation, WG-IDSST (VPH Peter Kovalenko).

13. VPH Laszlo Hayde (WG-HIST) and VP Irena Bondarik (WG-SDRG) gave a brief update on the activities of the working groups.

**ERWG Minutes Item 7: Revitalization of ICID Network**

14. The WG discussed that ICID needs to be more relevant to the problems being faced by European countries and there may be more number of Direct Members from Europe, in terms of remaining ToRs 3 and 4 of erstwhile TF-REV to study the financial and operational arrangements of European NCs and the reasons for their withdrawal from the membership of ICID in the recent past which was subsequently approved by IEC vide IEC Resolution - 2/69.

15. The WG proposed to establish a Task Force on Legislative Framework on Agricultural Drought Mitigation for European Region and recommended to PCSO which was subsequently approved by IEC.

**ERWG Minutes Item 8: Dissemination of activities of WG**

16. The WG discussed this item under 1.1 as above.

**ERWG Minutes Item 8.1: Website of the Group**

17. PH Peter Lee presented the outcome of his detailed review of the existing ERWG website, including the contents of the ICID website references to the ERWG, and provided recommendations for revision of the ERWG website.

**ERWG Minutes Item 8.2: Webinar / Web-based Seminar**

18. AFEID offered to present a Webinar on findings of the studies presented in the conference held in October 2019 at Montpellier, France.

**ERWG Minutes Item 9: Any other business**

19. ERWG requests Central Office to help schedule and organize WebEx-meeting for the working group once every 3 months.



## Annex [Appendix VII, Item 2]

## ROAD MAP TO ICID VISION 2030 – ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO EUROPEAN REGION

Goals	Activity	Outcomes/ Outputs	Milestone for Year 2017	Milestone for Year 2018	Milestone for Year 2019	Milestone for Year 2020	Milestone for Year 2021
<b>Goal B: Be a catalyst for change in policies and practices</b>							
<b>Strategy B1 : Supporting Development of Appropriate Policies</b>	1.7 Review of European/NC policy documents related to water resources that impact irrigation and drainage sector	Technical Report	Compilation of various policies related to water resources by Members in their country and start review few most important policy document	Draft of policy review report with recommendation	Finalisation and issue of policy review report  Continuation of review of remaining policy document		
<b>Goal C: Facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and technology</b>							
<b>Strategy C3 : Promoting Regional Cooperation</b>	3.1 Organise workshops/ Seminar etc.	Proceedings of workshop/seminar	To decide on theme and sub-themes for the workshop/seminar to be organised as internal/international workshop in the WG meeting	Workshop/ Seminar	Workshop/ Seminar including publication of outcome/ recommendations from previous workshop	Workshop/ Seminar including publication of outcome/ recommendations from previous workshop	Workshop/ Seminar including publication of outcome/ recommendations from previous workshop
<b>Goal F: Facilitate capacity development</b>							
<b>Strategy F1 : Enhancing Institutional Capacity Development in Member Countries</b>	1.5 To launch from Europe an international e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management from Europe for Young Professionals	Knowledge sharing and capacity development of YP	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'IYPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'IYPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'IYPeF' Organise a Side Event in WIF3	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'IYPeF'	e-Discussion on Water issues and/or Environmentally Sustainable Water Management in Europe like as 'IYPeF'

(Source: Consultative Group (CG) Report: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty & Hunger: A Road Map to ICID Vision 2030)