

**MINUTES FOR THE 30<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP (ERWG)  
4 September 2024, 08:30-10:00 hours (Session-I)  
4 September 2024, 10:30-12:00 hours (Session-II)  
Sydney, Australia**

**Presented by the Chairman**

**Year of Establishment: 1995**

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**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) Dr. Marco Arcieri (Italy), President, ICID and Chairman; (2) Vice President Bruno Grawitz (France); and (3) Vice President Honoraire Dr. Irene Bondarik (Russia).

**Website:** <https://icid-ciid.org/wbody/ERWG>

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**ERWG Minutes Item 1: Action Taken Report by Chair**

1. President Dr. Marco Arcieri, Chairman of the ERWG briefly presents the report on the actions taken on the decisions and proposals of the European Regional Working Group at its 29<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 5 November 2023.

**ERWG Minutes Item 1.1: Election of the Vice-Chairman of the ERWG**

2. Vice President Hon. Irene Bondarik (Russia) proposed that she would like to take the responsibility of Vice-Chairperson of the group. After discussions, the group has considered and recommended her proposal for Vice-Chairperson of the ERWG. Membership status is given in **Annex 3**, page 27.

**ERWG Minutes Item 1.2: Strengthening the membership in Europe**

3. Chair Dr. Marco Arcieri has informed the WG about the visits he has been carrying out to Spain, both in October 2023 (Ubeda) and February 2024 (Zaragoza), in order to appraise and help the Spanish NC to develop their own By-laws and Constitution. The process is still ongoing and has been well reported during the Meeting. Also, Chair Dr. Arcieri has informed the members of the WG about the contacts he has had with Scientific and Academic professionals of Greece, in order to help them create their own NC and enter into ICID community. On this purpose, Dr. Arcieri has informed the members that a Zoom Meeting will be held in the month of November, as requested by the Greeks representatives. Moreover, in order to reactivate National Committees (NCs) in Europe, ICID Central Office had been contacting 'Associate Members' countries such as Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovak Republic & Switzerland and requested them to reactivate/ renew their membership by becoming member of ICID once again. In order to bring more European countries into ICID, Central Office had approached the countries of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Denmark, Iceland, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, and San Marino and requested their Ministry of Water Resources / Agriculture to join the membership of ICID.

4. Chair Dr. Marco Arcieri has also informed the WG Members that the Netherlands National Committee of ICID (NETHCID) due to financial constraints, will not continue their membership. As previously communicated on 12 June, 2020, 12 March, 2021, 10 June 2022 and 6 March, 2023, they stated that their payment for 2021 would be their final contribution. However, the PFC recommended to extend NETHCID's membership in ICID until December 2024, hoping that NETHCID will improve its financial situation by then. The Central Office has informed VPH Charlotte de Fraiture, via email dated 3 April, 2024, and invited NETHCID to participate in ICID's technical activities through events and working groups. This allows Netherlands to maintain its status within ICID and potentially resume full membership in the future once NETHCID is able to resume subscription payments. Chair Dr. Arcieri has briefed during the WG Meeting, that he has had contacts with Ms. Meike van Ginneken, Special Water Envoy of the Netherlands, by means of her assistant, in order to try to re-establish connection with the country and rejoining membership of ICID.

5. Finally, Chair Dr. Marco Arcieri informed that The Water Forum - British National Committee of ICID (IWF/ICID.UK) would withdraw their country membership from the end of year 2024. While the Poland National Committee of ICID (POCID) has shown their interest for becoming country membership and informed Central Office to provide current annual membership subscription fee of Poland National Committee. Further, ICID

CO has communicated them and provided the current annual membership fee. Central Office will again get in touch with IWF/ICID.UK and Poland National Committee of ICID for reactivation/country membership in the ICID membership network.

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

6. During the last meeting, the group reviewed the Action Plan of ‘Road Map to ICID Vision 2030’ and focused on strengthening the membership of ICID within Europe. The group members agreed that focus areas of the group remain under three goals such as: (1) Strategy B1: Supporting Development of Appropriate Policies: Disseminate the policy paper within ICID; (2) Strategy C3: Prompting Regional Cooperation: Preparation of ICID Europe – brochures (one for use towards Ministries and other institutions and another to attract Young Professionals and others to take part in ICID activities); and (iii) Strategy F1: Enhancing Institutions Capacity Development in Member Countries: Sharing online NC’s work programmes and activities. Chair Dr. Marco Arcieri proposed to nominate one person member who shall be accounted as responsible for each of the Strategies, but due to the poor attendance this has not been carried out.

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

7. The Vice President Dr. Bruno Grawitz informed that the French National Committee of ICID (AFEID) would organize the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Wastewater Reuse (REUSE EUROMED 2024) from 29-21 October 2024 at Montpellier, France. The Conference has been co-organized by the REUSE Network of INRAE and the Chair Water & Agriculture and Climate Change. The aim of the Conference is to share the experiences and viewpoints of these different players on Reuse in the Mediterranean and Europe, in terms of feedback (success stories but also analysis of failures), outlook and different methodological approaches linked to the design, operationalization and evaluation of Reuse projects. The conference will focus on the multiple uses linked to the reuse of treated and “unconventional” wastewater at several scales from housing to territory such as (a) rainwater and grey water for uses at the residential and neighborhood scale; (b) water from wastewater treatment plants for agricultural irrigation or for urban purposes to clean or green cities and combat heat islands; (c) drainage water for irrigation; and (d) water for agro-industrial and agro-food uses. Please access at <https://reuse2024.sciencesconf.org/> for more information of the Conference.

**ERWG Minutes Item 4: Links with regional and trans-national organizations for co-operation**

8. The WG discussed the need to strengthen linkages among relevant organizations in each member country and also across the European region. In this regard, WG reviewed the list of cooperating organizations, reducing the list to organizations with a reasonable expectation of collaboration in the coming years. ERWG included 7 National Water Management Associations, 5 European professional organizations and 5 European Water Management institutes in the list. WG requested its members/NCs to strengthen linkages and cooperation with these regional and transitional organizations, as well as to provide details of the contact person(s). Members will deliberate on actions taken up for interaction and cooperation with these regional and transitional organizations during the future meetings of the ERWG. During the Vizag. Meeting, Chair President Dr. Marco Arcieri had briefed the members about the possibility to establish a cooperation with CiHEAM (Centre for High Agronomic Studies in the Mediterranean), Paris, in order to develop activities of capacity building and training for Young Professionals (YPs). Also, President Dr. Marco has shared the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IDA (International Desalination Association, based in Rome) and ICID for finalizing and sharing the information of new technologies on sea water desalination for irrigation. ICID Central Office has requested Dr. Marco to share the name of the key person for signing of MoU. President Dr. Marco informed that after discussion, the Secretary General of the IDRA, Dr. Shannon Mc Carthy, will most likely be the person to sign the MoU.

**ERWG Minutes Item 5: Activities of Focus Groups of ERWG**

9. During the Vizag. meeting in India, the RWG decided to have following five Focus groups based on their relevance to Europe such as : (a) Focus Group on History (WG-HIST) led by VPH Laszlo Hayde (Hungary); (b) Focus Group on Environment (WG-ENV) led by Mrs. Seija Virtanen (Finland); (c) Focus Group on Sustainable Drainage (WG-SDRG) led by Dr. Irene Bondarik (Russia); (d) Focus Group on Water Related Risks led by Prof. Klaus Roettcher (Germany) & Mr. Olli-Matti Verta (Finland) and (e) Focus Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-economic Transformation (WG-IDSST) led by VPH Peter Kovalenko (Ukraine). These groups were set up to raise matters related to European viewpoint in the respective work bodies and revert back to RWG on the relevant issues within the scope of focus groups.

**ERWG Minutes Item 6: Proposed workshop of the Working Group**

10. During the previous meeting, RWG had decided that the proposed workshop on “Groundwater Management and Seawater Intrusion to Aquifers” might be organized in virtual mode as a European Regional workshop event. Chair Dr. Marco had agreed to take a lead along with VPH Laszlo Hayde for organizing a workshop of the group and share the announcement with ICID CO for circulation among the members of the RWG. As of now, unfortunately,

VPH Prof. Laszlo Hayde has not been attending during last times because of some personal problems, hence this activity has been temporarily put in standby.

**ERWG Minutes Item 7: Dissemination of activities of WG**

**ERWG Minutes Item 7.1: Website of the Group**

11. The ERWG website ([http://icid-ciid.org/inner\\_page/106](http://icid-ciid.org/inner_page/106)) has been updated with the membership list, agenda, minutes, paper presentations, publications etc. Members missing have been requested for their active participation in the activities of the WG and facilitate exchange of information, knowledge, and experience, as well as networking on the topic related to mandate of the WG. Members are also requested to provide information, papers, presentation made on topics related to scope of work of the WG to the ICID Central Office for uploading on the website of the RWG. In order to ensure regular contribution of the members, WG is encouraged to make full use of Zoom platform for virtual meetings in between face-to-face meeting during IEC.

**ERWG Minutes Item 7.2: Webinar / Web-based Seminar**

12. The potential for webinars to disseminate relevant experience and information about water management in Europe among ICID member countries has been discussed during the Sydney meeting. It has been agreed that the RWG would organize 1 or 2 webinars per year based on the mandate of the group. Chair Dr. Marco Arcieri has requested the members of the group to participate and contribute their activities in the upcoming webinars of the WG. In this regard, VPH Dr. Irena Bondarik (Russia) had proposed a series of Webinars concerning precise land reclamation and eco-system water management, which have been held during the last year.

**ERWG Minutes Item 8: Any other business**

**8.1 ICID Members' Profile Section:**

13. As a new initiative, ICID has launched a new website (<https://icid-ciid.org>) as part of ICID's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration to meet the new web technologies. One of the newly added web features provides WG members access to their profile section using their dedicated account. ICID CO vide email dated 9 July 2021 informed all members on how to access their account and change their password to maintain accuracy. Members are requested to review and update their information using their credentials and help us to maintain accurate information. For more information, please refer to inside back cover page.

**8.2 Register on World Irrigation Projects (WIP):**

14. Chair Dr. Marco informs members of the ERWG that ICID has taken the initiative to document the development of irrigation and drainage schemes in the world by establishing an online Register on "World Irrigation and Drainage Schemes (WI&DS)". WI&DS will fulfil the need for a much-awaited global repository of information in systematic irrigation and agricultural water management. Irrigation projects having 5000 Hectares and above of Command Area can submit their information for inclusion in the register. Chair will encourage members to urge all irrigation and drainage scheme owners, managers, and researchers across the world, especially in their respective countries to contribute to the register. The review process and other details are outlined on the portal <<https://wip.icidevents.org/> > in detail



