



EurCOLD

November 20, 2017

## LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Members of EURCOLD,

Dear Colleagues,

Cooperation and interchange of information between countries and professionals is in EURCOLD's DNA. This makes EURCOLD a perfect room for arranging R&I consortiums in the dams field, that would benefit from the trans-boundary conditions (the club is composed of 23 member countries, most belonging to the European Union) and from the large scope covered by their members (administrations, owners, contractors, consultants and universities). Thus we can make an integrated, significant, contribution to R&I in the dams field. This is a major objective of this presidency. **Thus I invite you to contribute to the following actions.**

### 1 - Contribution to the H2020 Research & Innovation calls

The European Union has recently launched (27 October 2017) several calls within the **H2020 programme**. Among them, there is one on *Building a low-carbon, climate resilient secure, clean and efficient energy*. Its aim is aligned with those of hydropower, being dams a significant part of it. **EURCOLD could contribute to the European Technology and Innovation Platform, bringing together the most relevant stakeholders in the hydropower sector**, in a forum including workshops and online discussion groups in order to identify research and innovation needs and priorities, to share knowledge at the European level between basic science, the research and industrial value chain, civil society and European and national authorities, to support the discussion with up-to-date information.

Moreover, this call has to be viewed as a first opportunity for bringing us together to contribute with our knowledge and experience for society. It would enrich EURCOLD activities and it opens the way to other consortiums which can be articulated for the forthcoming calls (e.g. those related with safety & security, legislation, storage, business models, resource assessment, climate change, biodiversity, sedimentation, social acceptance, flexibility, etc.).

The final proposal must be ready by April 2018. Hence, it in order to do the declaration of interest of the members of the consortium, the cooperation of National Committees is paramount: to share the



EurCOLLD

November 20, 2017

information with potential members and contributors and for conveying the expressions of interest to EURCOLLD secretariat and presidency, so the consortium could be constituted and tasks assigned. This initial phase has to be completed by the end of this year. **Any member or company motivated to contribute to the definition of Research & Innovation priorities and to share of knowledge is welcome and has to be registered with the Secretary.**

## 2 - Another opportunity to support our EWG : the COST programme

Another EU funded programme which might be of interest is the **COST programme**. It is devoted to develop European-based science and technology networks. This fits very well with the EWG activities, as they are actually science and technology networks in the field of dams. Thus, the COST programme could provide an umbrella to the EWG actions (meetings, workshops, training schools, knowledge transfer, etc.). **Setting up a proposal encompassing all the activities of the EWG** is another target of this presidency. As the COST programme is more flexible than the H2020, the call for proposals is continuously open. Hence our suggestion is to prepare the proposal for the next ICOLD Congress & General Assembly that is going to be celebrated in Vienna, in July 2018. One more time, **any member or company motivated to contribute is welcome and has to contact the Secretary.**

## 3 - The proposed task force on Dams & Territories

Our past President, Guido Mazza, has organized with the Italian committee **four workshops on the assessment of the relationship between dam owners and host territories from 2014 to 2017**. The aim is to facilitate the dialogue and the intercommunication between two worlds that often have conflict-provoking or even opposite interests: the dam owners and the world of stakeholders. It was recognized that all these events were an opportunity for owners to listen and change the reality perceived by the stakeholders and for the stakeholders to appreciate transparent and measurable positive externalities of the corresponding benefits of dams.

The experience done by ITCOLD is profitably to other European Countries. The program of the Task Force could be to put in common the Italian experience and to apply and adapt the methodology to other countries and contexts. If a positive feedback would come from the first steps, the Task Force can be converted in a Working Group with the aim to improve the methodology and to prepare more successful discussions with the other stakeholders and the society. **Any national committee or owner who found interest in that experience has to contact the Secretary.**



EURCOLD

November 20, 2017

#### 4 – The European Club evening in Vienna Sunday July 1 2017

Regarding the abovementioned meeting, EURCOLD has planned a **EURCOLD Event** in collaboration with the ATCOLD Organising Committee. **The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of European coordination on dams coincides with the Vienna Congress**; consequently a social evening will be a central part of its celebration. This event is planned on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2018, thus we can start the congress in the best way. **The members who want to attend this event are invited to book online through the Registration system.**

#### 5 - The next European symposium in Chania (Crete) 2-5 October 2019

Last but not least, I would like to mention the most important EURCOLD event, our symposium. **The 11<sup>th</sup> EURCOLD Symposium** is going to be celebrated near Chania in the island of Crete (Greece). The organization is ongoing with the inestimable support of GCOLD. Among all the topics devoted to dams, **a new activity is inserted within the programme: a EURCOLD Short Course for Young Engineers**. This training school shall be focused on matters that concern them. Recent YEF meetings have had group discussions on numerical models, regulations of the different countries, new technologies for dam surveillance, research and its actual applicability, encouraging children on dam engineering, etc. On the view of the widespread variety of topics addressed, it is necessary to select the most useful topics. This required the help of National Committees via their respective YEFs' groups. **All the national committees are invited to send to the Secretary their list of most interesting topics and lectures, before the next Vienna meeting.**

With my best regards

Dr J-J Fry