

ETIP HYDROPOWER 3rd General Assembly meeting

09:30 – 11:00 CET

1st December 2025

List of attendees – General Assembly members¹ (incl. other governance reps)

First name	Last name	Organisation	Country
Denis	Aelbrecht (chair)	EDF	FR
Christophe	Aurori	EDF	FR
Irena	Beloreschka	Technical University of Sofia	BG
Pietro	Bernardara	EDF	FR
Heike	Bruch	Voith Hydro Holding	DE
Pierre	Cerckel	ENGIE R&I	BE
Utashi	Ciraane	University of Liege	BE
Jelka	Crnobrnja-Isailovic	Societas Europaea Herpetologica	SRB
Benedetta	Di Costanzo	WIP Renewable Energies	DE
Tonin	Dodani	KESH sh.a	ALB
Harry	Driscoll	Natel Energy	UK
Eduard	Doujak	TU Wien, Institute for Energy Systems and Thermodynamics	AT
Francois	Edwards	Apem Ltd	UK
Sébastien	Epicum	University of Liege	BE
Atle	Harby	SINTEF	NO
Surya Teja	Kandukuri	NORCE	NO
Egidijus	Kasiulis	VDU	LT
Vasiliki	Kontargyri	University of Athens	GR
Adrian	Lindermuth	Verbund	AT
Xavier	Escaler	Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya	ES
Victor	De Genot De Nieukerken	AFRY Switzerland	CH
Benjamin	Graff	CNR	FR
Klaus	Jorde	KJ Consult	AT
Dimitar	Kisliakov	UACEG Sofia	BG
Wolfram	Malzfeldt	Ernst Malzfeldt KG – Hydroelectric power plant in Bad Karlshafen, Germany	DE
Dan	Marlone	Uganda Electricity	UG
Syed Iqbal	Mehdi	Suki Kinari Hydro Power Project	PAK
August	Meindl	Blitz Power / Consultant	AT
Slavko	Milevski	AD ELEM, HPS	MK
Leonardo	Nibbi	CREAR/DIEF	IT
Rudolf	Pavel	Brno University of Technology	CZ
JD	Person	N/A	N/A

¹ In alphabetical order

Judith	Plummer-Braeckman	University of Cambridge	UK
Marco	Preziosa	ENEL Green Power S.p.A.	IT
Emanuele	Quaranta	Joint Research Centre	IT
Jurgen	Schuol	Voith Hydro Holding GmbH & Co. KG	DE
N/A	Ron	N/A	N/A
Paul-Daniel	Sindilariu	BKW Energie AG	
Peter	Stettner (Co-chair)	ANDRITZ Hydro GmbH	AT
Dimitar	Tanurkov	Quarner dooel	MK
Upnish	Thakur	THDC India Ltd (superannuated on 31.03.2020)	IN
Stefan	Troyer	Troyer S.p.A.	IT
Peter	Tschoefen	Illwerke vkw AG	AT
Maria	Ubierna	Open Hydro	UK
Michael	Zoglauer	Tiwag	AT

List of attendees – Secretariat

First name	Last name	Abb- reviation	Organisation	Country	Present/excused
Anton	Schleiss	AS	ICOLD	CH	P
Mark	Morris	MWM	Samui France	FR	E
Jean-Jacques	Fry	JJF	ICOLD	FR	E
Gregory	Arrowsmith	GA	EUREC	BE	E
Andrej	Misech	AnM	EUREC	BE	P
Dirk	Hendricks	DH	EREF	BE	P
Tasniem	Jawaid	TJ	EREF	BE	P
Federico	Spadaro	FS	EASE	BE	P
Patrick	Clerens	PC	EASE	BE	E
Mario	Bachhiesl	MBa	VGBE	DE	E
Lee William	Estrellado	LWE	VGBE	DE	P
Janire	Garcia	JG	Zabala	BE	E
Iraia	Nunez	IN	Zabala	BE	P
Matteo	Bianciotto	MBi	IHA	UK	P
Rebecca	Ellis	RE	IHA	UK	E

List of attendees – Others (incl. EC and guests)

First name	Last name	Abb- reviation	Organisation	Country	Present/excused
Thomas	Schleker	TS	European Commission, DG RTD	BE	P

Agenda

Ref	Items	Time	Speaker / Action
1	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory word from the Governing Board chairing team Welcome by the Secretariat and overview of the current composition of the General Assembly 	09:30	Denis Aelbrecht (Peter Stettner (Andritz) / Anton Schleiss (ICOLD))
2	Working groups update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current activities of the 3 working groups & next steps 	09:40	Lee Estrellado (vgbe)
3	Scientific Advisory Board update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current focus and activities 	10:10	Anton Schleiss (ICOLD)/Ole Gunnar Dahlhaug (NTNU)
4	ETIP HYDROPOWER Business plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of the business plan for a self-sustainable ETIP HYDROPOWER platform 	10:20	Anton Schleiss (ICOLD)/ Jean-Jacques Fry (ICOLD)
5	Brussels Hydropower Day 2026 update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlook to Brussels Hydropower Day 2026 	10:30	Iraia Nunez (Zabala)/ Anton Schleiss (ICOLD)
6	Q&A	10:40	ALL
7	AoB	10:50	ALL
	Meeting end	11:00	

Minutes

Item	Items
1	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denis Aelbrecht, as the chair of the Governing Board, welcomed participants • Peter Stettner, representing the Governing Board chairing team, welcomed participants and highlighted the progress made by the platform, including the success of the Brussels Hydropower Day 2024 and the establishment of working groups. • Anton Schleiss outlined the meeting agenda, which included updates on the Brussels Hydropower Day 2025, working groups, the HERI platform, the Scientific Advisory Board, and the business plan. This meeting is the 2nd meeting of the General Assembly. The 1st meeting, organized in June 2023 was focused on sharing information about the General Assembly, Governing Board, Terms of Reference and other governance bodies, which were being set up at that time. • A brief update on the status of the platform membership was given. There is currently over one thousand registered members with 90% coming from Europe (EU + UK, Switzerland, Norway, Turkey) and 10% from outside of Europe. These members must give consent to be involved in the General Assembly.
2	<p>Working Groups update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETIP HYDROPOWER Secretariat provided comprehensive updates on the activities and outputs of the working groups, highlighting the publication of white papers, webinars, and videos, as well as the structure and focus of each group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WG1: Hydropower's Role for Flexibility and Storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on flexibility and storage. The presentation included the group's structure, the development and approval process of their White Paper, and the dissemination activities including a launch webinar attended by 99 participants and presentations at various conferences. ○ WG2: Hydropower and Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing key biodiversity issues the Working Group has produced three technical White Papers on fish mobility, environmental flows, and sediment dynamics, which were released in November 2025 and presented in a webinar with 98 participants. ○ WG3: Hydropower and Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Working Group covers both adaptation (resilience) and mitigation (GHG reduction). The subgroups, established during the development of the White paper, focused on adaptation, mitigation, and the water-energy nexus. The Working Group has recently published a dedicated video on hydropower and climate change and also received approval from the Governing Board to publish its White paper with a launch webinar planned for January 2026. ○ All 3 thematic Working Groups are meeting to discuss potential future activities, formats, and efficiency improvements, with updates to be communicated as plans develop. ○ WG-A: European R&I Projects for Hydropower

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This cross-cutting group aims to follow-up on clustering hydropower projects funded under Horizon Europe and support dissemination of their results. Main activities include organising webinars to boost best practices, with plans for continued activities in 2026.
3	<p>Scientific Advisory Board update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anton Schleiss provided update on the SAB's meetings, collaborations, and the development of position paper and recommendations for future hydropower R&I calls through the collaboration with EERA Joint Programme on Hydropower. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In one of the recent meetings, the SAB discussed challenges in hydropower education across European universities, aiming to maintain a strong educational portfolio and promote hydropower teaching. A joint workshop in October 2025 led to the creation of a position paper titled 'Hydropower for resilient, secure and competitive Europe', along with recommendations for future research and innovation funding calls.
4	<p>ETIP HYDROPOWER Business plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anton Schleiss presented the ongoing development of the ETIP Hydropower business plan, including service levels, funding scenarios, and the challenge of transitioning to a self-funded or consortium-based organisation after EU funding ends. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different service levels were defined, ranging from current activities to expanded roles in industry collaboration, awareness-raising, and capacity building, with associated cost estimates and activity breakdown. Anton described the need for a small research project fund to address urgent industry questions, inspired by the CEATI model, and highlighted the funding gap between identified research priorities and available EU funding. Two main options are under consideration: creating a new association with its own membership fees or forming a consortium of existing organisations to share costs and responsibilities, with both having pros and cons. ETIP Hydropower support project partners have applied for two additional years under reduced EU funding, with results expected by soon. The additional two years should allow enough time for transitioning to a sustainable funding model.
5	<p>Brussels Hydropower Day 2026 update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraia Nunez provided update on the organisation and scheduling of Brussels Hydropower Day 2026, explaining the reasons for the later day, the integration with concluding Horizon Europe projects, and efforts to maximise participation of policy-makers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The event is planned for the week of June 29 to July 3, 2026, to accommodate the start of new project funding and the completion of key Horizon Europe projects, which would be able to present their final results. The event should be organised in partnership with three major projects and covering some or all off the topics such as digitalisation, biodiversity, climate change, flexibility, strategic autonomy and security. Registration will open in January 2026. The event will include new activities such as a lottery and an evening reception to attract a wider audience and policy-makers. Participants raised concerns about the timing overlapping with holidays and other events. Secretariat committed to reviewing possible alternatives and

	<p>prioritising weeks when European Parliament members are present in Brussels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategies to increase policy-makers' participation, including targeted invitations and scheduling high-level sessions at the beginning of the event.
7	<p>Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants asked questions and noted some recent or ongoing publications or initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sebastien Erpicum Q: Can the ETIP Hydropower website improve navigation and access to published documents? A: The secretariat is already working on improving the website for easier navigation and also updating its visual identity. ○ Atle Harby Q1: The proposed week (starting June 29) overlaps with holidays in major hydropower countries like Norway. Can this be reconsidered? Q2: Why not plan the event for April - to avoid funding uncertainty? A: Booking a venue without funding is not possible, and projects we want to showcase will not have final results by Q2 2026. ○ Emanuele Quaranta Comment: Two activities on hydropower run by the European Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU CETO Hydropower report: https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC143929 ▪ Survey on hydropower manufacturing in the EU for manufacturers: to share ideas and concerns of manufacturers: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/e0f5468a-033d-bcd3-79a9-a880876c2bec ○ Judith Plummer Braeckman Q: Is creating a new association necessary, or can existing ones be used? A: A consortium of multiple existing associations is preferred option to cover all relevant activity areas. ○ Benjamin Graff Q: What are the deadlines for forming an association or consortium and for the selection of feasible ETIP funding model? A: Discussions are ongoing and will continue next year. There is no strict deadline at this stage. ○ Klaus Jorde Q: How can we improve policy-makers participation at Brussels Hydropower Day, given last year's low turnout? Does the proposed date help? A: This concern is noted and was raised following last year's event. Planning will consider strategies to increase policy-makers' engagement.
8	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Stettner, on behalf of the chairing team, thanked the participants and the secretariat, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Annex I: Meeting presentations

The following files are distributed together with these minutes of meeting:

- *ETIP_Hydropower-3GAmeeeting_vFINAL.pdf*

Annex II: List of decisions

Item	Actions	Who	Due (month, date)
	n/a		