

ETIP HYDROPOWER Governing Board Application form

Name and surname	Maria Güell i Pons
Photo	
Name of entity (e.g. company, association, etc.)	SECO State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (Swiss government) and AFRY (consultant dam safety)
Job title / role	Program Manager Infrastructure Investments
Stakeholder category	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydropower industry and technology ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Operator/owner of large hydropower plants and/or pumped storage plant(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Independent operator/owner of small hydropower plant(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design, planning and project development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance, business and insurance ² <input type="checkbox"/> Research, innovation and development ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and civil society ⁴
Country	Switzerland
Previous experience (1300 characters with spaces)	<p>Throughout my career, I have gained experience in large dams and hydropower, working at various levels and in different sectors. I spent a significant portion of my professional journey working with the Swiss Federal Agency of Energy, focusing on large dams at the national level. During this time, I was involved in the implementation of dam safety measures, compliance and regulations.</p> <p>Subsequently, I ventured into the diplomatic sector, where I dedicated two years to facilitating large dam building negotiations between riparian countries. I also had the opportunity to contribute to global dam safety efforts during my three-year tenure at the World Bank, where I actively participated in projects aimed at improving dam safety standards and practices globally.</p>

¹ Equipment supplier and/or manufacturer, maintenance industry, etc.

² Financial, legal & developing institutions, development, public or commercial banks, financial organisations, and private investors/investment funds, international monetary fund, insurance, legal advisors, etc.

³ R&D institutions, research centers and institutes of universities, etc.

⁴ Environmental or conservation NGO's, civil society associations, policy makers, water resources associations, project stakeholders, etc.

	<p>Currently, I am employed as a Program manager for infrastructure investments at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). In this capacity, I oversee infrastructure projects in Kosovo and Kyrgyzstan, focusing on sustainable development and enhancing the countries' infrastructure networks. Simultaneously, I serve as a dam engineer consultant for AFRY Switzerland around dam sa, regulatory compliance and capacity building projects.</p>
<p>Motivation to become Governing Board member (1300 characters with spaces)</p>	<p>My motivation to become a governing board member of ETIP stems from my strong interest in promoting hydropower adoption to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Europe by using Technology and Innovation and respecting the landscape processes and biodiversity. I believe that hydropower, with its potential for renewable energy generation, can play a pivotal role in the energy transition towards a sustainable future, by introducing new regulations, technologies, innovations and best practices.</p> <p>Moreover, I am passionate about engaging with stakeholders who share the same goal of promoting hydropower. As a governing board member of ETIP, I would have the opportunity to collaborate with industry experts, policymakers, researchers, NGO's and other stakeholders. Together, we can devise innovative strategies to overcome challenges, foster knowledge sharing, and drive the adoption of sustainable hydropower solutions in Europe. It is essential to align narratives and efforts across sectors and countries in Europe and I believe we could inspire other continents to integrate renewable energy sources and adopt sustainable hydropower practices.</p>