

## Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Hydrogen Europe Research General Assembly

21 November 2023 / 14:00 – 17:30

Hybrid meeting: In person and Webinar (Zoom for remote connection and Big Pulse for voting procedures for all participants)

BRUSSELS EXPO, 1 Place de Belgique, 1020 Brussels

Expo HALL 11, Level 3, Room 1121AB

Date	21/11/2023		
Start	14:00	End	18:00
Location	Hybrid meeting: In person and Webinar (Zoom for remote connection and Big Pulse for voting procedures for all participants) - BRUSSELS EXPO, 1 Place de Belgique, 1020 Brussels, Expo HALL 11, Level 3, Room 1121AB		
Session Chair	Luigi Crema	Telephone Number	+39 335 6104991
Minutes Secretary	Simona Vitali	Telephone Number	+32 4 66 43 29 02
Participants	See attached list of organisations represented		

### Agenda topics

#### **Connection**

Luigi Crema, HER President, welcomed all members in person and online.

The GA presentation will be sent to participants and representatives of the organisations who could not attend.

#### **a) Checking presence and proxies**

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128 Hydrogen Europe Research voting member organisations were present at the beginning of the meeting (out of a total of 150 full voting members) and 1 was represented by another organisation through a proxy.

Overall, 133 member organisations attended the meeting. The required quorum (75) was met.

**b) Acknowledgment of 36<sup>th</sup> General Assembly agenda**

The agenda was unanimously acknowledged.

**c) Approval of Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

The minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

### ***New Members and Financial Updates***

Luigi Crema welcomed participants online and in person and made a few introductory remarks on the status of the Association. He acknowledged the good work of the Secretariat and the Executive Board, and anticipated some topics which will be further explored during the General Assembly.

He also warmly welcomed **6 new members** (accepted after the last General Assembly in June) and announced that the important goal of 150 members was reached in October.

Christian Sattler, Hydrogen Europe Research Vice-President and Treasurer, then gave an update on Hydrogen Europe Research's financial situation, which is stable. The increasing expenses (necessary to run the association) are balanced by the membership fees and incomes from different projects (European Hydrogen Observatory and GreenSkills4H2).

He explained the need to expand the Secretariat in 2024: one part-time administrative assistant will be hired to replace Maria Caamano, the freelance who is currently managing HER finances, and one full time employee will be hired to support the two new Working Groups and eventual new projects HER might be awarded.

Christian Sattler mentioned that a *Risk Fund* was allocated: from the balance of 2023, a risk fund of 60.000,00€ will cover about 50% of the sum between outstanding memberships and new expected memberships.

In addition, a *Communication Fund* from the balance of 2023 of 10.000,00€ will cover the new design of the HER website in 2024.

**Results of vote – via Big Pulse**

Do you approve the 2024 foreseen budget? (Majority 50% + 1 vote)

Do you approve the 2024 foreseen budget?		
	Votes	Results - Votes Casts
Yes	119	99,17%
No	1	0,83%
Abstention	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	

**The 2024 budget was approved by the General Assembly.**

### Updates on HER activities

#### Communications & External Affairs

Simona Vitali, Communications & Membership Manager, gave an update on Hydrogen Europe Research communication activities. It covered:

- [LinkedIn](#) outreach.
- The website: reach out to Simona if you have a vacancy you would like to advertise on our [dedicated job platform](#), or if you wish your events to be featured on our events section!
- The intranet: reach out to Simona if you missed the registration email sent on February 14!
- The newsletter: subscribe [here](#)!
- HER Promotional Video: we decided to collaborate with a communication agency to create a short promotional video, with the objective of promoting our association, increase our membership, and reach a bigger audience. You can find it [here](#). Share it within your network!
- HER participation in events and sponsorships.

Talking about future initiatives, Simona Vitali gave an update on the status of the **EPHyC - European PhD Hydrogen Conference**: 180 abstracts were received to participate in the conference (which will take place in Ghent in March 2024), and many PHDs attending the conference belong to Hydrogen Europe Research's member organisations.

She also announced that the winners of the **Young Scientist Award 2023** were selected by the Executive Board. The Executive Board chose 5 young researchers belonging to Hydrogen Europe Research's member organisations and decided to award them in 5 different categories (Hydrogen production/ Hydrogen storage and distribution/ Hydrogen usages/ Cross-Cutting activities/ Best researcher of the year). The 5 young winners will attend in person the award ceremony in Brussels on November 22 and will receive a prize of 1000 EUR.

Daria Vladikova, Chair for External Affairs, took the floor to present the activities of HER aimed at fostering European and Global Cooperation. She mentioned the participation of HER in the new SET Plan Hydrogen Implementation group (H2 IWG) and the EERA JP Fuel Cells and Hydrogen.

### **Policy Working Group activities**

A policy update was presented on the ongoing and upcoming policy activities at EU level. The agenda is shifting from proposal to implementation of legislation, also due to the upcoming elections to take place in June 2024.

A question on the functioning of the Hydrogen Bank was asked. The auctions system launched on 23 November will provide a fixed premium in €/kg of renewable hydrogen produced over ten years of operation. The disclosed ceiling price is 4.50€/kg of hydrogen. The [Terms and conditions](#) (disclosed, ceiling price, minimum technical requirements, entry into operation, maximum grant amount, etc.) have been detailed by the European Commission. Another auction round is expected to take place in Spring 2024. The total budget of the Hydrogen Bank is 3 billion euros (0,8 billion euros allocated for the auction of 2023 and 2,2 billion euros for the auction on 2024).

### **Skills activities**

An update on the various activity streams linked to Skills was presented:

- Skills Working Group
- Green Skills for Hydrogen
- European Hydrogen Observatory
- International Partnership for a Hydrogen Economy – Skills Task Force.

Details on each of this activity can be retrieved in the slides. For more information, do not hesitate to contact Julia Cora.

### **New Working Groups**

The *Low TRL Research* and *Research & Technology Infrastructures* Working Groups have been launched. The first meetings will take place during on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

Details on the foreseen activities for 2024 are presented in the slides.

The wish to have physical meetings for the Working Groups was noted.

## *Clean Hydrogen Partnership updates*

An update on the 2023 Call for proposals (budget repartition per Technical Committee and type of action, as well as the results of the evaluations) was presented.

Following the 2023 Call for proposals, an update on Annual Work Plan 2024 was provided. The final budget repartition and selected projects were presented. An overview of the timeline until the end of the year can be retrieved in the slides. The 2024 Call for Proposals will be open on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, with a deadline set to the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. The lump-sum approach will be used for all selected projects, more information and explanation will be provided by the Programme Office towards the beginning of 2024. An outro webinar was organised by the Secretariat on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, the date for the annual Info Day has not yet been set by the Programme Office.

A reminder on the project contribution and the IKAA reporting was made, all the details can be found in the slides. Regarding the IKAA reporting, the calendar is not set by Hydrogen Europe Research but by the European Commission, members nevertheless pointed the need to have enough time to fill in the Excel template.

An overview of the expected timeline for Annual Work Plan 2025 was presented. The foreseen budget should be in the region of 120M€, postponed topics from Annual Work Plans 2023 and 2024 will also be taken into consideration. Following the General Assembly, the process of identification of annual priorities will be launched with members.

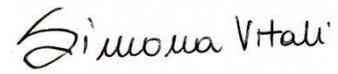
Regarding the update of Roadmaps and of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. It was finally agreed with the Programme Office and European Commission to draft an addendum rather than a full review of the document. A final draft should be elaborated by the Programme Office by the end of the year. Technical Committee and Roadmaps leaders are involved in this process. The addendum should be approved by the Governing Board of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership by March 2024. KPIs will be updated in parallel and will likely be finalised later during the year.

A brief mention to the future beyond the Clean Hydrogen Partnership was made. The legislative and political context from 2023 to 2027, in which the discussions surrounding further support to research on hydrogen post-2027, can be found in the slides. Hydrogen Europe Research, in collaboration with Hydrogen Europe, will develop a narrative calling for further support to research on hydrogen technologies, providing solid arguments and proposing an adequate support mechanism. Active advocacy will also be pursued along the year.

Luigi Crema (President)



Simona Vitali (Secretariat)



Michael Walter (Representing Member)

## Hydrogen Europe Research – 36<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

21 November 2023

### List of present member organisations (x)

Aalborg University	x
AGH University of Science and Technology	x
AIT	x
Aragon H2 Foundation	x
BAM	x
BAS	x
BERA	x
Brandenburg Uni of Technology	x
Brunel University London	x
CARTIF Foundation	x
CATIM	x
CEA	x
CENER	x
CERIC ERIC	x
CERTH/ CPERI	x
CETIM	x
CIC energigUNE	x
CIDAUT	x
CIEMAT	x
CIRA	x
CIRCE	x
CNH2	x
CNR	x
CNRS	x
CNT – Center for advanced technologies in Sarajevo	x
Coventry University	x
CSIC	x

Danish Technological Institute	x
DEU	x
DLR	x
DTU	x
DVGW	x
EIFER	x
ENEA	x
EPFL	x
ERIG	x
Faculty of Engineering at the University of Mondragon	x
FBK	x
FORTH/ICEHT	x
Foundation CIDETEC	x
Fraunhofer	x
FUNDECYT-PCTEX - CIAE	x
Ghent University	x
Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf	x
HEREON	x
Hycenta	x
ICSI	x
IEN	x
IFE	x
IFPEN	x
IMDEA Energy	x
INEGI	x
INIG-PIB	x
INL	x
INTA	x
IREC	x
ISINNOVA	x
Istanbul Technical University	x
ISTD	x
ITE - Instituto Tecnológico de la Energía	x
Jülich	x
KIT	x

KTH	x
LEITAT	x
LIST	x
Łukasiewicz-IEL	x
Luleå University of Technology	x
LUT University	x
Marin	x
NCSR Demokritos	x
NORCE	x
NTNU	x
NUIG	x
Parthenope Uni Naples	x
Plocan	x
Polimi	x
Polito	x
RCNS/TTK	x
RISE	x
RWTH Aachen University	x
Rzeszow Uni of Technology	x
Sabancı Uni	x
SINTEF	x
SINTEF Energy AS	x
SINTEF Ocean	x
TECNALIA	x
Tekniker	x
TNO	x
TU Chemnitz	x
TU Delft	x
TU Graz	x
TUBITAK	x
TUKE Sjf	x
Turku Uni	x
UBFC	P
UC3M	x

UCT Prague	x
Uni of Alicante	x
Uni of Antwerp	x
Uni of Birmingham	x
Uni of Bologna	x
Uni of Cassino	x
Uni of Groningen	x
Uni of Lorraine	x
Uni of Nantes	x
Uni of Oulu	x
Uni of Padua	x
Uni of Perugia	x
Uni of Pisa	x
Uni of Salerno	x
Uni of Southern Denmark	x
Uni of Tartu	x
Uni of the Basque Country	x
Uni of Turin	x
Uni of Ulster	x
Uni Trieste	x
UNIMORE	x
UNITUS	x
UPC	x
UPM	x
UPV – CMT	x
VITO	x
VTT	x
WHS	x
WUT	x
Wrocław University of Science and Technology	x
ZBT	x
ZHAW	x
ZSW	x

<sup>36th</sup> Hydrogen Europe Research General Assembly on 21 November 2023

PROXY FORM

As a designated voting member of Hydrogen Europe Research registered at: Avenue Marnix 23, BE-1000 Brussels, I, Nadia Steiner representing UBFC in Hydrogen Europe Research, with its registered office at 32 Avenue de l'Observatoire, 25000 Besançon FRANCE, hereby give a proxy to Heathcliff Demaie / University of Lorraine in their capacity as a designated voting member of Hydrogen Europe Research.

This proxy is to represent UBFC and carry out voting power at the General Assembly conducted online and in person on 21 November 2023.

This proxy, of which the original will remain attached to the attendance list of the above-mentioned meeting, empowers the proxy holder to:

- Take part in the meeting, and if necessary, adjourn the meeting;
- Participate in any meeting with the same agenda, should the first meeting be adjourned or not convened in conformity with the prescriptions of the article of association;
- Participate to all deliberations and votes and adapt and reject the agenda in the name of the undersigned;
- Execute signatures of all documents, acts, official papers, attendance lists, etc.

Signed by Ndia STEINER in Rabat, Morocco on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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(Signature)

