

The ET- BGR: Board of Governmental Representatives

Roberto Cimino

Ministry of Universities and Research -MUR – Italy

Lodewijk Smoor

Ministry of Education, Culture and Science – OCW – The Netherlands



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BGR

11-14 November 2025

Opatija, Croatia

4th Einstein Telescope Annual Meeting

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What is the BGR?

- Board of Governmental Representatives (e.g. ministerial representatives, but also some scientists) for the Einstein Telescope Project



- Established in 2021, 2-3 meetings per year, 10 meetings so far.
- Next meeting in January 2026.
- “Informal proto-council” of a future Einstein Telescope
- 11 countries (9 Members, 2 Observers)



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The ET-BGR Composition:

Members:

Belgium

Lionel Bonjean - DG SPW EER
Hans Plets - FWO
Laurent Ghys - BELSPO

Croatia

Hrvoje Mestric, Director-General Directorate for Science and Technology
Jelena Ilic-Dreven Directorate for Science and Technology

France

Susana Gota-Goldmann - MESRI
Stefano Panebianco - MESRI
Patrice Verdier - CNRS

Greece

Konstantinos Fountas - President of the CERN Council

Italy

Ettore Francesco Sequi (Head of Delegation) MUR, Lamberto Moruzzi MUR, Marica Branchesi -GSSI- expert

Netherlands

Mirjam Lieshout - Directorate science and research policy Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
Sjoerd Sjoerdsma - Expert NWO

Poland

Dariusz Drewniak - Counsellor general in the MES
Michal Rybiński - Head of Unit in the MES

Spain

Inmaculada Figueroa - Deputy Vice DG for Int. of Science & Innovation SMSI
Esther Martín Malagón - S.G. Int. of Science & Innovation in the SMSI

United Kingdom

Yi Luo - Senior Policy Officer, Research Infrastructures, UK Department of BEIS
Christopher Matthews - UK Department of (BEIS)



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The ET-BGR Composition:

Observers:

Austria

Stefan Hanslik
Florian Brandt

- Head of Unit V/3a e-IRG Chair - BFWF
- Department V/3 - BFWF

Germany

Karsten Hess
Stefanie Jörres

- Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space
- Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

Coordinator ET Project and Sherpa:

Jorgen D'Hondt (NIKHEF)
Antonio Zoccoli (INFN)
Marco Pallavicini (INFN)

ET Project Directorate

Fernando Ferroni (GSSI)
Andreas Freise (NIKHEF)
Mario Martinez (project leader INFRADEV-PP)



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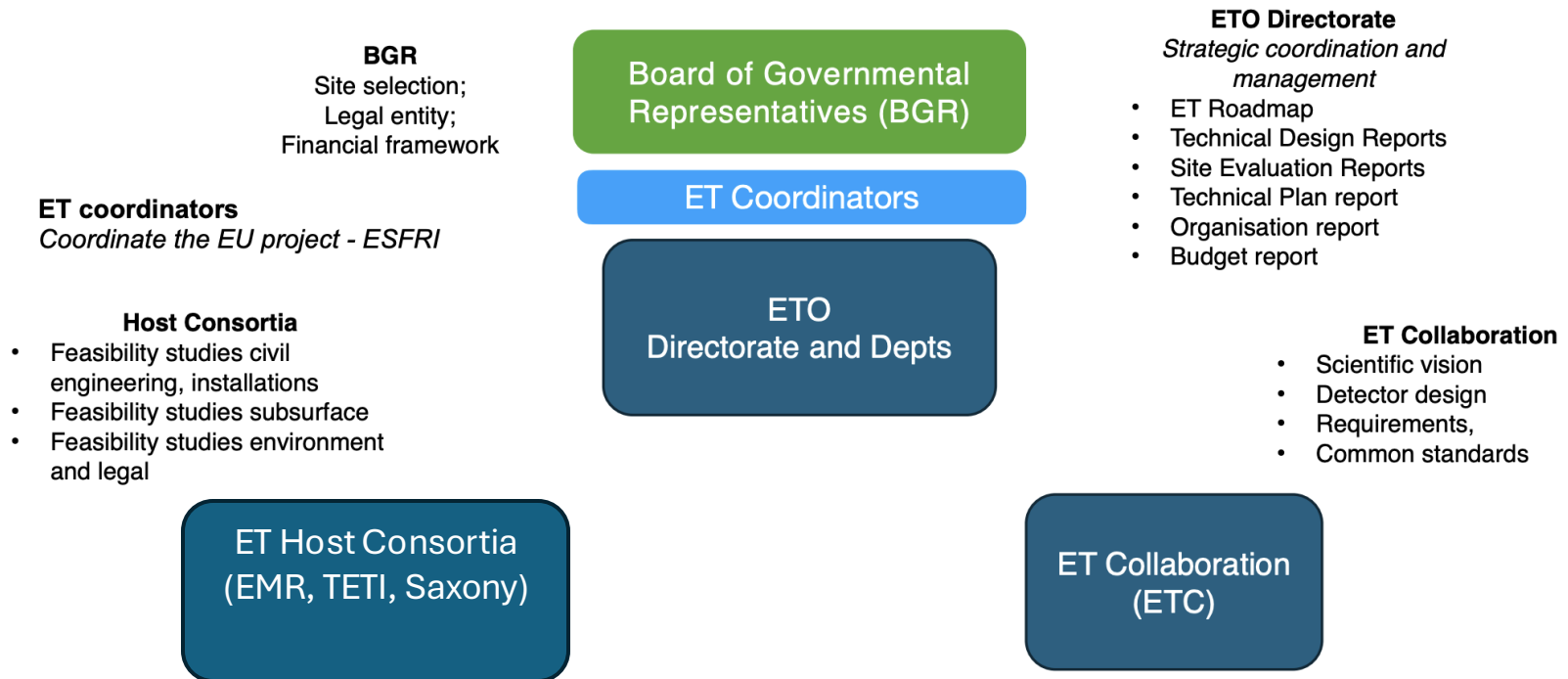
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BGR in the ET governance



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The ET-BGR Scope and purpose (from ToR):

1. The ET BGR, is established as **strategic forum** to discuss and agree in consultation with the ET coordinators on the progress and process of realizing ET. The BGR can invite the coordinators to a meeting.
2. The ET BGR shall among others prepare, discuss, negotiate, and approve the documents needed for the setting up of the ET legal entity.
3. ET BGR will especially aim to reach consensus on:
 - **the procedure to select the host country for the ET**, including what kind of information will be needed for the selection procedure;
 - **the legal model**, governance structure and founding documents;
 - **the financial plan and the draft internal financial rules**;
 - policy papers;
 - **the procedure for selection and appointment of the Interim Executive Director** when needed;
 - any other issues deemed necessary by the ET BGR and its members.

The ET BGR and its rules are valid until they are replaced by other rules, or until the ET BGR terminates and any other interim or final ET governance boards, under the approved ET legal model, are set up.



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The ET-BGR has established a Site Selection Criteria Working Group

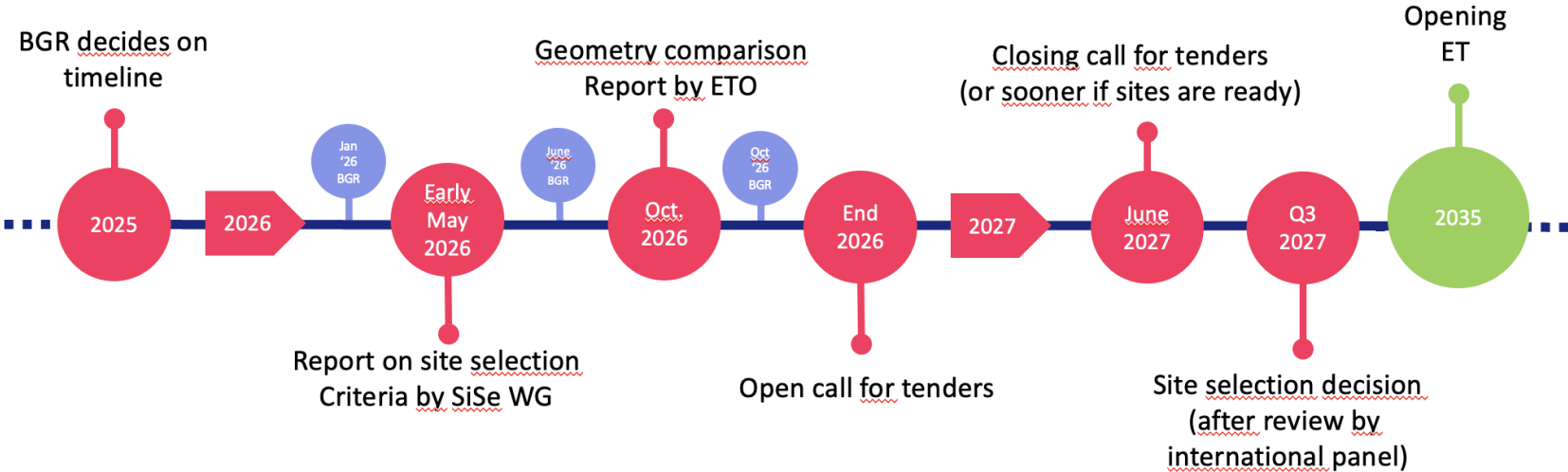
Section 1: Scope and purpose

1. The Working Group on Site Selection Criteria, hereafter referred to as the 'WG', is established as an advisory body to the Board of Governmental Representatives for the ET, hereafter referred to as the 'BGR'.
2. The WG shall provide a draft execution plan to the BGR on the site selection procedure for the ET that ensure its fairness and transparency. This will include:
 - the identification and the definition of the criteria to take into account,
 - their respective weighting,
 - the decision procedure,
 - timeframe and intermediate steps.

Andrew Harrison, the chair of the WG will discuss it further.

At the 10th meeting, ET-BGR has established The ET- Project timeline

Date	Action
28-29 Jan. 2026 tbc	BGR meeting (BE)
Early May 2026	Report on site selection criteria by SiSe WG
29-30 June 2026 tbc	BGR meeting (DE) tbc
End Sept./early Oct. 2026	Geometry comparison report by ETO Bidbook template by (tbc)
26-27 Oct. 2026	BGR meeting (ES or IT)
Dec. 2026	Open of call for tenders
June 2027	Closing of call for tenders (or earlier if all sites are ready earlier)
Q3 2027	Site selection decision (after review by international panel)



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Take away messages

The BGR is the forum on the level of national ministries to discuss and agree in consultation with the ET coordinators on the progress and process of realizing ET.

Topics that will be on the BGR agenda include ETO mandate, as presented by the Coordinators, ETO Workplan, Legal Entity and the site selection process

All Members of the ETC are welcome to refer to their BGR members for questions/suggestions.

Members of the ETC not represented in the BGR, are welcome to ask their governments to join it if they want to confirm the interest of their respective countries by formally participating in the ET project.

Participation in the BGR supposes cash and in-kind contributions to the ET project



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Contact with the BGR is possible via the secretariate

- Jerome Pourbaix: Jerome.POURBAIX@belspo.be
- Maria Rachele Nocera: MariaRachele.Nocera@mur.gov.it



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