

# EU Hydrogen Valleys Days

4-8 May 2026, Antwerp



## HYDROGEN VALLEYS: AN ENGINE FOR COMPETITIVENESS IN THE REGIONS

Date: Wednesday, 6 May 2026 | Location: Antwerp Port House

Zaha Hadidplein 1B-2030 Antwerp

09:00 – 10:00	<b>Registration &amp; coffee</b>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Welcome: Valérie Bouillon-Delporte</b>, Executive Director, Clean Hydrogen Partnership</li></ul> <b>Keynote Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Brigitte van den Berg</b>, MEP, European Parliament (the Netherlands, Noord-Holland region)</li><li>• <b>Tom Hautekiet</b>, Chief Business development &amp; Transition Officer, Port of Antwerp-Bruges</li><li>• <b>Krzysztof Kuik</b> - Director Clean Planet, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li><li>• <b>Danica Maljković</b> - Chair of Governing Board, Clean Hydrogen Partnership</li></ul>
10:30 – 11:30	<b>Session 1: Supporting Hydrogen Valleys: A Journey from Policy to Implementation</b> <p><b>Master of ceremony: Mirela Atanasiu</b> – Head of Unit Operations and Communication, Clean Hydrogen Partnership</p> <p><b>Keynotes</b> providing an overview of support to H2 Valleys in Europe – funding, policy, investment and implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mirela Atanasiu</b> – Head of Unit, Clean Hydrogen Partnership</li><li>• <b>Christopher Schmitt</b> – Partner, Roland Berger</li><li>• <b>Bert De Colvenaer</b> – CEO, WaterstofNet</li></ul>
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Session 2: Learning from experience – Recent developments in the H2 Valleys</b> <p><b>Setting the scene: Luigi Crema</b> – President, Hydrogen Europe Research</p> <p><b>Moderation: Renata Kadric</b> – Project Officer, Clean Hydrogen Partnership</p> <p><b>Panel discussion</b> with Hydrogen Valleys representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Margherita Matzer</b> – Group coordinator, WIVA P&amp;G, HI2 Hydrogen Valley (Austria)</li><li>• <b>Katarina Sasaráková</b> – Project manager, Košice Region, EASTGATEH2V (Slovakia)</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Anna Sager</b> – Senior Project Manager, RISE, HiWhyV (Sweden)</li></ul>
13:00 – 14:30	<b>Lunch break</b>
14:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Session 3: Moving towards FID - First-hand insights from PDA Beneficiaries</b></p> <p><b>Setting the scene:</b> <b>Markus Kaufmann</b> – Partner, Roland Berger</p> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Antonio Aguiló Rullán</b> – Team Leader, Clean Hydrogen Partnership</p> <p><b>Panel discussion</b> with PDA beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ariel Carpanini</b> – Head of the EU Representation Office, Région SUD – Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur   H2SUD</li><li>• <b>Thorsten Herbert</b> – Owner, Hydrogen Now   HyCoast</li><li>• <b>Markus Kaufmann</b> – Partner, Roland Berger</li><li>• <b>Wojciech Lach</b> – Manager, ORLEN S.A., ExMBA   AH2V Valley, Poland</li></ul>
15:30 – 15:45	<p><b>Fireside chat on Role of Infrastructure and Storage on Connecting H2 Valleys</b></p> <p><b>Tudor Constantinescu</b> – Principal Adviser, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission</p> <p><b>Charlotte Roule</b> – CEO, Storengy, VP Hydrogen for the ENGIE Group</p>
15:45 – 16:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:15 – 17:15	<p><b>Session 4: Making Hydrogen Valleys happen – Connecting Valley practitioners, policymakers and investors</b></p> <p><b>Setting the scene:</b> <b>Patrice Millet</b> – Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission</p> <p><b>Moderation:</b> <b>Pietro Caloprisco</b> – Project Officer, Clean Hydrogen Partnership</p> <p><b>Panel discussion with Valleys, policy makers and the financing community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nicolas Brahy</b> – President France Hydrogène &amp; Member of Executive Committee, Hy24</li><li>• <b>Konstantinos Chatzifotis</b> – European Affairs Manager, Motor Oil - TRIERES Valley, Greece</li><li>• <b>Clément Gerthoffert</b> – Team leader, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission</li><li>• <b>Axel Volkery</b> – Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission</li><li>• <b>Piero Venturi</b> – Director of the MI - Clean Hydrogen Mission, Directorate General for Research and Innovation, European Commission</li></ul>

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<b>17:15 - 17:30</b>	<b>Fireside chat: Bridging Big Industry and Start-up Innovation in Hydrogen Valleys</b> <b>Pere Margalef-Valdeperez</b> – Chair of the Technical Leaders Group, Hydrogen Europe <b>Andrés Galnares</b> – Founder and CEO, H2Site
<b>17:30 – 17:45</b>	<b>Summary and closing notes</b> <b>Valérie Bouillon Delporte</b> – Executive Director, Clean Hydrogen Partnership
<b>17:45</b>	<b>Networking Reception</b>