

Date August 2025

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Subject Candidacy Board Elections 2025



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Delft University of Technology

To: General Assembly of CESAER

Address:  
Landbergstraat 15  
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Dear CESAER members,

I am honoured to announce my candidacy for the CESAER Board Elections 2025, to be held during the Annual Meeting hosted by Brno University of Technology from 22 to 24 October.

As members of CESAER, we play a pivotal role in an increasingly dynamic and interconnected world. Our universities serve as engines of innovation, combining advanced research, education, and societal engagement. By collaborating across borders and disciplines, we not only advance knowledge and address complex challenges, but also contribute to building a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive Europe—one that is competitive on the global stage.

Over the years, CESAER has evolved into a vibrant and influential association, uniting more than 50 leading universities of science and technology. It plays a vital role in shaping European policy through advocacy, peer learning, and expert involvement. Looking ahead to 2030, CESAER is well-positioned to take a proactive lead in setting the science and technology policy agenda. By leveraging our collective strengths, we can influence EU decision-making and support our members to address societal challenges through strategic collaboration and visionary leadership.

European policymakers increasingly seek our expertise. It is therefore imperative that our contributions are recognized, clearly communicated, and reflected in policy and funding frameworks. Amplifying our distinct voice, while aligning strategically with other organisations such as LERU and The Guild, will be key to maximizing our impact.

TU Delft is eager to represent the Netherlands and actively contribute to CESAER's advocacy initiatives. As one of Europe's top technical universities, TU Delft is internationally renowned for excellence in engineering, technology, and innovation. With world-class expertise in areas such as civil engineering, aerospace, robotics, and sustainable energy, we combine cutting-edge research with real world application. Our close links to industry, strong interdisciplinary culture, and international outlook make TU Delft a magnet for talented students and researchers from across the globe.

My own international background in both academia and industry has given me a broad and diverse perspective. I share the collaborative and creative mindset that defines the engineering community and is essential to addressing today's multifaceted challenges. I see this mindset as a vital asset in strengthening Europe's competitiveness and resilience.

I believe that CESAER's advocacy should continue to drive the development of robust, future-oriented European policies, grounded in the strengths, insights and foresight of our member institutions.

In my view, the strengths of S&T ecosystems—regional, national, and international—are not yet sufficiently embedded in our strategy. These ecosystems are essential to unlocking Europe's potential in research, education and innovation, and need policy support to thrive. They must be driven by diversity, collaboration, and the seamless integration of research, education and innovation across borders. Strong team spirit in our eco-systems cannot be bought; it must be built. Together with attracting talent, this is where Europe's competitive edge lies, and it should be central to both how CESAER positions itself and how we collaborate as members.

As Pro Vice Rector for International Affairs at TU Delft, I am closely involved with issues at the heart of CESAER's mission and deeply engaged in international networks such as the [IDEA League](#) and the [ENHANCE alliance](#). I serve as a direct extension of our Executive Board and am firmly embedded in our institutional strategy.

With my diverse background, international experience and competences I am looking forward to contributing to CESAER's agenda. I would welcome the opportunity to co-lead a task force in an area where I am already active and would also be open to taking on the role of Treasurer, should this be deemed beneficial.

While our focus should remain clear and the number of task forces limited, I believe there is merit in placing emerging technologies, associated competitive opportunities, and sensitive issues on our agenda, given the rapid pace of global change. Topics such as AI, quantum technologies, clean industry, and biotechnology are key drivers of our competitiveness, while sensitive areas such as dual-use research, defence and space, warrant dedicated attention through the proposed Task Force in the draft Work Plan. This will strengthen our strategic, future-oriented thinking, enabling us to remain agile and adapt swiftly to new developments.

I hope this letter has conveyed both my motivation and vision for contributing to CESAER. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss my candidacy further. I will be present throughout the General Assembly and look forward to our conversations.

I very much look forward to meeting you in Brno.



**Yours sincerely,**  
Prof. Ir. M.A. (Ena) Voûte  
Pro Vice Rector International Affairs  
Delft University of Technology