

Marine Policy of the European Commission

Following the Green Paper on *A Future Maritime Policy for the Union: a European Vision of the Oceans and Seas*, the EC has developed a proposal for an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union (EU), “based on the clear recognition that all matters relating to Europe's oceans and seas are interlinked, and that sea-related policies must develop in a joined-up way [if we are] to reap the desired results”. Most of the action areas identified in support of this integrated maritime policy are related with the activities of IHO EU and non-EU Member States HO.

This year the former Maritime Task Group was integrated into the renamed and restructured Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG Mare)

The Green Paper on a Future Maritime Policy for the European Union was adopted on 7 June 2006 by the Commission. The Green Paper was accompanied by a number of background documents which have been produced by European Commission Working Groups and by the Maritime Policy Task Force which oversaw the drafting of the Green Paper.

Launch of the Integrated Maritime Policy: On 10 October 2007 the Commission presented its vision for an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union. The vision document – also called the Blue Book – was accompanied by a detailed Action Plan, an impact assessment and a report on the results of the broad stakeholder consultation.

See also: http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/dev_imp_en.html

The NSHC installed a Working Group: EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG (NSHC EUM2WG), see attached report of the WG to the 28th NSHC Conference (April 2008).

A Memorandum of Understanding between the IHO and the European Commission (EC) has been drafted and is planned to be signed in due course.

BSHC members are invited:

- to take note of the measures taken by the EC in the maritime sector;
- to identify the ways to participate in the cooperation between IHO and EC;

Report on NSHC EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG (NSHC EUM2WG)

1. BACKGROUND

Under Conclusion n° 81, the NSHC, during its 27th Conference, in Rostock, Germany, September 2006:

Noting that significant new European directives and programmes on marine and maritime matters have been launched or are currently under development;
Resolved to establish a working group on EU marine and maritime policies to monitor the impact on HOs with the following terms of reference:

1. *identify EU activities and processes on matters of interest to HOs;*
2. *establish a common understanding of the issues when possible;*
3. *consider and propose the ways and channels to interface with the EU activities and processes (mechanisms) through NSHC initiatives or through the IHO in general.*

and the following rules of procedures:

1. *the working group will be chaired by France;*
2. *members of the NSHC are invited to appoint a contact person;*
3. *the working group will work mainly by correspondence and report on its findings at the next NSHC meeting.*

2. DISCUSSIONS

Since NSHC27, significant progress has been made with the active contributions provided by all NSHC appointed members.

EU activities which are of interest for HOs, and which may benefit from HOs contributions, have been identified: they are based on the list of actions depicted in the EU Maritime Blue Book (*An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union*).

A meeting took place in Brussels on 25 January 2008 basically to raise the awareness of the European Commission (EC) Maritime Task Force. A summary report was issued by the IHB through CL14/2008, inviting IHO MS to consider a MoU between the European Commission and the IHO.

In February, MS were also invited to consider the application for the EMODNet group of experts.

Experimentation is in progress with EMSA for the provision of WebMapServices derived from RENC ENC datasets.

An update on the progress of these actions will be provided at the Conference.

3. PROPOSALS

NSHC's members are invited:

- to continue their support in the activities of the NSHC EUM2WG;

- to consider the request made to the IHO by the head of the EC Maritime Task Force on 25 January 2008, on a common and non-ambiguous definition and calculation of the length of the coastline;
- to identify the ways and means to optimize the links with the EC under the auspices of the proposed MoU, in liaison with the other IHO EU MS and RHCs.