

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

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**CIRCULAR LETTER 51/2005
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INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SPATIAL INFORMATION IN EUROPE (INSPIRE)

Dear Hydrographer,

The European Parliament and Council have adopted directives establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE). INSPIRE lays down general rules for the establishment of an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe, for the purposes of environmental policies and policies or activities which may have a direct or indirect impact on the environment. INSPIRE shall be based on infrastructures for spatial information established and operated by the Member States of the EU. The components of those infrastructures shall include: metadata, spatial data themes, spatial data services; network services and technologies; agreements on sharing, access and use; coordination and monitoring mechanisms, process and procedures. The implementation process recognizes the need to harmonize INSPIRE with existing international initiatives.

To ensure INSPIRE is cognizant of the activities of the IHO and that the IHO remains abreast of developments within INSPIRE, the Directing Committee has registered the IHO as a Spatial Data Interest Community (SDIC) in INSPIRE. As such we have requested INSPIRE to keep us informed of their activities and we have registered, as an initial input, S-57 and the Presentation Library as reference material pertinent to INSPIRE implementation. The Directing Committee will continue to keep Member States informed as developments occur and encourages Member States within the European Union to establish active liaisons with INSPIRE. More information regarding INSPIRE may be found at <http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/>.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Kenneth BARBOR
Director