



ORGANIZACION HIDROGRAFICA INTERNACIONAL

Dossier del BHI N° TA 005-01

CIRCULAR No. 14/2008
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MEMORANDUM DE ACUERDO ENTRE LA OHI Y LA COMISION DE LA UNION EUROPEA

Estimado(a) Director(a),

1. Durante la última reunión de la Comisión Hidrográfica del Mar del Norte (CHMN) los participantes expresaron su preocupación porque las iniciativas de la Comisión de la Unión Europea (CE) sobre importantes temas marítimos carecían de la adecuada información hidrográfica. En particular, se constató que la CE no consultaba a los Estados Miembros. En algunas ocasiones hubo respuestas nacionales sobre temas específicos pero se convino que era necesario coordinar las respuestas y ejercer una influencia en la CE a partir de la estructura de la OHI. La CHMN decidió crear un Grupo de Trabajo sobre el siguiente tema: "Políticas Marinas y Marítimas de la Unión Europea (UE)", que será presidido por Francia.

2. El viernes 25 de Enero Francia organizó una reunión en Bruselas, con los responsables de la CE, sobre asuntos marítimos, para examinar la relación entre las instituciones de la UE y los SHs a través de la OHI. Las siguientes personas participaron en la reunión: Ingénieur Général Gilles BESSERO e Ingénieur en Chef Yves GUILLAM (Francia), Mr. Paul CANHAM (RU), Mr. Thomas DEHLING (Alemania), Capitán de Navío Floor DE HAAN (Países Bajos), Mrs. Nathalie BALCAEN (Bélgica) y Vice-Almirante Alexandros MARATOS (BHI). Los objetivos de la reunión fueron:

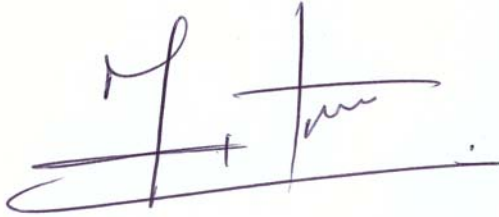
- Aumentar la conciencia de las capacidades, misiones y responsabilidades de los SHs y de las redes existentes;
- Dar una visión de la OHI y de sus actividades;
- Proporcionar una visión de conjunto de la contribución de la OHI al establecimiento de la Política Marítima Integrada de la UE;
- Mejorar la asociación entre las instituciones/agencias de la UE, la CE y la OHI;
- Identificar todas las acciones susceptibles de beneficiar de iniciativas cuando Francia asuma la presidencia del Consejo de la UE.

3. Habiéndose hecho referencia la mayoría de las veces a la fuerza de las redes y las capacidades de la OHI existentes con respecto al plan de acción del "Libro Azul" (Una Política Marítima Integrada para la Unión Europea), la reunión fue muy provechosa para ambas partes, dando la oportunidad de: destacar la importancia de la hidrografía en todos los temas relativos a la seguridad en el mar, la contaminación del medio ambiente marino, la seguridad y el desarrollo; comprender las iniciativas marítimas específicas y las necesidades de la CE y; discutir sobre cómo puede organizarse mejor la cooperación futura y la necesidad de la participación de expertos en las reuniones que traten temas de interés específicos para ambas partes. Se decidió formalizar esta cooperación mediante un Memorándum de Acuerdo

(MoU) entre la OHI y la CE, para que los Estados Miembros estén mejor informados sobre los desarrollos relativos a la cooperación con la CE.

4. Se ruega a los Estados Miembros que examinen el proyecto de MoU adjunto a la presente, entre la OHI y la CE, y que envíen sus comentarios al Bureau **no más tarde del 20 de Marzo**, observando que la OHI puede estudiar el nombramiento de un Servicio Hidrográfico (SH) para que lleve toda interacción con la CE.

En nombre del Comité Directivo
Atentamente,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Vice-Almirante Alexandros MARATOS
Presidente

Anexo: Proyecto de MoU (*en Inglés únicamente*).



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO)
AND
THE EUROPEAN UNION COMMISSION (EC)**

1. Parties

This document constitutes an agreement between the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the European Commission (EC) in the field of maritime affairs.

2. Background

The IHO and EC, being aware of the growing need for close and more efficient co-operation in the activities of common interest to support both organizations, Member States and their maritime policies, agree on the following framework of co-operation.

IHO is an intergovernmental organization of a consultative and technical nature comprising 80 Member States, out of which 19 are members of the European Union (EU) (February 2008) represented by their respective national hydrographic authorities (usually the Hydrographic Offices (HOs)). The IHO objectives include the coordination of national hydrographic offices' activities, standardization of nautical charts and publications and the adoption of reliable and efficient methods to conduct hydrographic surveys, all aiming to contribute to the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment. In its endeavour, the IHO has established Regional Hydrographic Commissions covering the world to provide focus on regional issues as well as Committees and Working Groups to deal with particular technical, financial and administrative issues.

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.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework ensuring a continuing liaison between the two organizations in the specific areas of common interest. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical, professional and operational support, through a continuing programme of co-operation leading to a mutual sharing of knowledge and expertise to the advantage of both organizations and Member States. HOs should become key enablers in the development of EU and national maritime policies using the existing framework provided by IHO without duplication and making the best use of the most efficient resources.

4. Programme of Activities

In accordance with the background and purpose described above, both organizations agree to endeavour to intensify their co-operation for mutual benefit. The following steps will be taken, among others:



1. Regular contact is to be established between the two organizations in order to institute and maintain a continuing liaison to address matters of common interest.
2. Each organization should inform the other of all Commissions, Working groups, etc. that it has established and invite representation from the other where it is agreed that it would be appropriate. The International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) will be the focal point of contact for the implementation of this MoU. In EC, the lead role is the responsibility of the Directorate-General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG FISH), with support from the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport (DG TREN), Environment (ENV) and Research (RTD).
3. Each organization should inform the other of its programme of work, proposed seminars, workshops, call for tenders, etc. to enable joint participation should it be of mutual benefit and inform its members of these events as appropriate.
4. Each organization should invite a representative from the other organization to attend respective Congresses/Conferences and offer complimentary registration.

5. Areas of interest

It is agreed that both organizations should focus on the following areas of common interest among others: exchange of best practices, surveillance activities, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, marine observation and data networks, marine research, and co-operation with third countries. Any specific action plan which may be decided to support these areas, will be arranged between the relevant subordinate bodies (e.g. EMSA and Regional Electronic Chart Centres) under specific conditions.

6. Financial Commitment

It is understood that neither organization can commit the other to any expenditure, save that from administering this agreement, without the specific written agreement of both organizations.

7. Legal Status

This Memorandum does not create a legal link between the two organizations who will maintain their mutual independence.

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid until IHO or EU proposes changes to it. Each organization has the right to propose changes to this Memorandum at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the agreement of both organizations.

Date: 2008

On behalf of IHO

Vice-Admiral Alexandros Maratos
President IHB

On behalf of EC

Mr. John Richardson
Head of the EC Maritime Policy
Task Force