

**17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Mediterranean & Black Sea Hydrographic Commission  
(M.B.S.H.C)  
Athens, Greece  
1-3 June 2011**

**Minutes of the meeting**

The 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) was held at the headquarters of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff in Athens, Greece, under the Chairmanship of Rear Admiral Hakan Eraydin, Hydrographer of the Turkish Navy. Thirteen Member States, Algeria (DZ), Croatia (HR), Cyprus (CY), France (FR), Greece (GR), Italy (IT), Morocco (MO), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SL), Spain (ES), Tunisia (TN), Turkey (TR) and Ukraine (UA) were represented. Four Associate Member States, Georgia (GE), Malta (MT), United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US), and four Observers, IHB, PRIMAR, UNESCO/IOC and UNESCO/ICG/NEAMTWS were also represented. The IHB was represented by the President of the Directing Committee Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos.

**Address by the Deputy Chief of HNGS**

Rear Admiral N. Kryoneritis HN, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, welcomed the Chairman and the participants of the meeting and highlighted the importance of the work of the International Hydrographic Organization in supporting the safety of navigation and the protection of the environment. He stated that as an oceanographer is very much concerned of the activities of the HOs and that MBSHC is a significant platform for mutual cooperation and understanding in the Mediterranean and Black Seas region. He wished to all a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Athens.

**Chairman's Opening**

MBSHC chairman thanked Rear Admiral Kryoneritis, introduced himself and welcomed all the participants. He expressed his gratitude to the Hydrographer of the Hellenic Navy Commodore Alexandros Theodosiou and his staff for hosting the meeting and particular thanks to the President of the Directing Committee for his participation. He stated that is a great pleasure and honour for him to chair the meeting and commented that MBSHC as the largest RHC needs better coordination for cooperation of the member countries aiming in the improvement of their capabilities throughout the areas of their responsibility. The chairman also highlighted the capacity building as a key activity in the region and called the members to strive to fulfil SOLAS requirements. Closing his speech he encouraged the participants to participate actively in the discussions in order to improve the work of the commission and the IHO.

**Opening remarks by the hosts**

Commodore Alexandros Theodosiou thanked Rear Admiral Hakan Eraydin for his kind words and welcomed the participants. He stated that is a proud privilege and honour to host the meeting and he outlined the important role that the MBSHC performs for the mutual cooperation and understanding between the region's HOs. He wished to all a pleasant stay in Athens and a successful and productive meeting.

**1 Working and Administrative arrangements**

Hosts informed the participants on the working and administrative arrangements.

## **2 Adoption of the Agenda, Timetable and Documentation**

The draft agenda circulated to the members at MBSHC CL 01/2011. The representative of PRIMAR requested to present his report earlier, on the second day of the meeting. After the approval of this change the agenda and the timetable were adopted by the participants.

## **3 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman summarized the activities of the commission during the last two years focusing in the following:

Regarding Capacity Building (CB) activities he reported that a number of courses on hydrography, nautical cartography and MSI dissemination have been performed and that four students from the region followed relevant courses (two under Japan CB Project and other two under IHO CB Project) which were held in UKHO. He also reported that the technical visits to Syria, Israel and Libya could not be implemented due to various reasons whilst the technical visit to Georgia implemented within the expected level of expertise and proficiency.

He underlined the importance of the Medinchart Program and the necessity of an efficient coordination of efforts in covering maritime routes in the area with INT charts and consistent ENC's. He especially highlighted the important role of the Medintchart coordinator and his efforts to resolve pending technical issues, by hosting a technical meeting in Paris, in February 2010, and to issue a draft new edition of the Medintchart catalogue.

Further he reported on the BASWG which resumed its activities in its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in Istanbul (May 2010) under the chairmanship of Turkey. Many important issues like INT chart and ENC coverage of the Black and Azof Seas were discussed and a number of actions were underlined and reported. Some amendments to the TORs of the WG were decided.

Finally he reported on the status of the procedures for the ratification of the amendments to the IHO Convention and the designation of the MBSHC representatives to the IHO Council.

All the above-mentioned activities were discussed in detail under the relevant agenda items.

## **4 Designation of Vice-Chair**

In accordance with article 6 of the MBSHC Statutes the representative of the country in which the Conference takes place shall be its Vice-Chairman. Thus, Commodore Alexandros Theodosiou HN was announced as the Vice-Chairman of the meeting.

## **5 Status of Action List from the Previous Meeting**

The action items of the 16<sup>th</sup> MBSHC Conference were reviewed by the Chairman. The majority of the actions from the previous meeting were completed or were discussed under the appropriate agenda items. SP reported that a number of countries have not reported on the status of the hydrographic surveys.

## **6 IHB Report on Status of the IHO Working Programme**

The President IHB highlighted a number of issues that need to be considered by the Member States such as the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the Convention of IHO or the voting for membership of other Countries to become Members of the Organization.

He noted that the two WGs that have been established by past Conferences continue their works. The SRWG that was established in 2007 to review the SR and make proposals to the

MS till 2009 and the S-23 WG that was tasked to review the S-23 and make a proposal to the MS till the end of 2011.

He reported that S-23 WG was established with the agreement of the MS in 2009 and had its first meeting during the 4th EIHC. A considerable work has been progress through correspondence and a second meeting took place in September last year in Singapore. A special page has been opened on the IHO web site where all issues concerning the work of the WG are posted.

He also reported that during the last and this year in the Bureau they had a number of vacancies coming from the retirement of Staff and the death of one member of the Staff. In recruiting new Staff the DC seeking better technical and administrative qualifications than in the past, in order to anticipate and address the increased needs and requirements of the Bureau Recruitment of Cat A Staff is contacted through the procedures indicating in the SR. MS have informed for the coming vacancies through CL and the applications of candidates are forwarded by the Directors of the HOs.

He further reported that in October 2010 a new regional commission was established, the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC), by the five Arctic Coastal States; Canada, Denmark, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States. The ARHC is the sixteenth RHC since the establishment of the International Hydrographic Organization in 1921.

## **7 IHO WP - Programme 1 - Element 1.1: Co-operation with International Organizations and Participation in Relevant Meetings.**

### **a Cooperation with IMO (NAV, COMSAR, MSC)**

IHB President informed the participants on the following:

(1) During NAV the Organization was made a presentation on the status of the ENC coverage. An appropriate coverage of ENCs is needed to be in place by the Organization before 2012 that the carriage of ECDIS is becoming mandatory. As it is known IMO has agree for a phased introduction of ECDIS to various categories of ships between 2012 and 2018.

(2) One of the issues under discussion in IMO in the implementation of e-Navigation is the Universal Maritime Data Model that will be used. The Bureau has indicated that S-100 the IHO Registry can be considered for adoption as the UMDM. The DC received at the Bureau the visit of the Chair of the e-Nav CG and briefed him on the details of S-100. During NAV made a presentation on S-100 so that all the participants would be informed on S-100, what it is, how it works, etc. With the approval of NAV a work shop was organized at the Bureau in November last year, in order to examine suggestions for data Models that could be available for use in E-Nav. The meeting concluded that S-100 is a model that can be used as the UMDM together with the model that is under consideration by IALA and the two Organizations were asked to get together and discussed this issue between them. A meeting took place in Brussels in January, and IALA has accepted that S-100 will be used by IALA and there is not any reason to progress any other Model. The results of these will be provided to COMSAR and NAV.

(3) Under the E-Nav, NAV has asked IHO and IALA to finalize the gap analysis on shore-side aspects. The gap analysis is based on users needs. It has been finalized and presented to COMSAR and NAV and based on this the initial cost benefit and risk assessment will follow.

(4) There was a submission last year in NAV by Japan on the symbology of Virtual Aids to Navigations. The IHO made a submission on this topic emphasizing the need for a thorough discussion concerning the policy and strategy of IMO on this issue before symbology would be discussed. The position of IHO received an over whelming support by NAV representatives and it was decided that MSC should be invited to expand the scope of NAV's WP item on VAD in order to considered first the issues raised by IHO. MSC in December last year examined this issue and expanded the scope of this item of the WP. This issue is going to be examined during the coming meeting of NAV.

(5) Concerning the imbalance of membership between IMO and IHO, which affects safety at sea, the IHO made a special submission to the 87<sup>th</sup> session of the MSC in May last year with the co-sponsorship of Brazil, France and Norway requesting the issue of an MSC circular on IHO membership. This issue received a wide support and the issuance of the Circular was approved.

#### **b Cooperation with IOC.**

Mr. Thorkild Aarup, representing IOC gave a brief presentation on the efforts of IOC to coordinate and assist its MS in establishing tsunami and other ocean related hazards and among them the North East Atlantic and Mediterranean and connected seas Tsunami Warning System.

He strongly encouraged MBSHC Member States to support the development of the NEAMTWS – notably through upgrade/installation of sea level stations transmitting and exchanging observations in real time and to exchange coastal bathymetry data IAW relevant resolution of IOC and IHB CL 36/2006.

He further highlighted the need for:

- Supporting the establishment of monitoring systems for sea-level rise and land subsidence targeting vulnerable areas;
- Analyzing the impact of sea-level rise and coastal erosion on affected communities, the agriculture, tourism and manufacturing sectors, as well as affected infrastructure and facilities; and
- Developing programmes to address sea-level rise and coastal erosion, including planning for disaster reduction and relief the worst-case scenarios.

Mr. François Schindelé representing ICG/NEAMTWS gave a presentation on the activities in the NEAM area since June 2005. He noted that ICG in order to address specific technical issues has formed four WG and two Task Teams. He added that the NEAM region was the only one without a dedicated and continuous operational warning system, but this situation is improving deeply since 2010. He further reported that:

- From 2011 to 2013, several NTWC will be implemented, several with regional capacities (France , Greece, Portugal, Turkey)
- Communication tests started in 2010 and will be extended with all TWFP in July 2011
- Real time Tide gauge network have enhanced in several countries (France, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Turkey)
- Tsunami exercise is planned in 2012

He finally highlighted some needs for the implementation of the system such as:

- Establishment of Tsunameter network
- Exchange of sea level data with South Mediterranean countries
- Additional sea level stations in seismic zones

- EC contribution to enlarge participation of MS to ICG meetings and activities with financial support
- Involvement of Civil Defense authorities

RO highlighted the development of a tsunamis prevention program in the Black Sea area and the intention of the countries to join this regional network.

FR informed the participants that SHOM is very much involved with any warning system.

Following the above the Commission recommended MS to contribute actively in the development of NEAMTWS through upgrade national sea level stations identified by NEAMTWS Implementation Plan to real time data delivery and to participate in data exchange (Recommendation 1)

### **c Cooperation with the European Commission (EC)**

FR gave a presentation regarding the relations of the IHO with the European Commission and made an outline of the discussions between the IHO representative and the Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Mrs. Maria Damanaki about the issues that hydrography would provide in relation with the issues on which EC is interested.

Further was made an outline on the European Commission's objective that is to protect Europe with very strict safety rules preventing sub-standard shipping, reducing the risk of serious maritime accidents and minimizing the environmental impact maritime transport. The Commission also works actively against piracy and terrorism threats. Another important activity concerns the social dimension, looking after working conditions, health and safety issues and professional qualifications of seafarers.

From all the above it was clear that there are many areas where the hydrographic community could help and in order this relation to be formalized, an MOU was drafted during 2010, which is provided liaison between the two sides in the specific areas of common interest, continuous cooperation and sharing of knowledge.

Following the above FR gave a presentation for the EMODNET Project that is managed by SHOM and forms the European database for hydrographic data. An MOU has been drafted in order to conclude the cooperation between EU and the IHO and now is in the phase of signature. Further outlined the next steps of the project which consist in, gathering more data sets in all areas, presenting the 2<sup>nd</sup> release of DTMs to the Commission and the 2<sup>nd</sup> release of the portal and finally in gathering more metadata of both surveys and composite DTMs.

IHB stressed the importance of these relationships indicating that EU is a very productive and good tool for the improvement of the hydrographic issues.

CY also stressed the importance of this cooperation and was wondering if the EU could take the initiative to coordinate the hydrographic projects and offices by funding such programs.

### **d International Sea Power Symposium**

IT reported on the eighth Regional Seapower Symposium (RSS) for the Navies of the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, which was held in October 2010 in Venice. Navies and Naval services representatives from 43 countries demonstrated the importance of Dialogue & Cooperation for the improvement of Maritime Security and defined a common position to support their central role in the contribution to maritime security and its enforcement.

IHB indicated that the scope of the meeting had moved beyond the Mediterranean and Black Seas to worldwide and after the surveys conducted by GR, IT and UK in the region (Albania) nobody feels that there was any improvement of the hydrographic activities in the area.

After further discussion on this issue the commission decided IHB to cooperate with IT to support needs for hydrographic activities to be considered by Sea Power Symposium. (Decision 1)

## **8 IHO WP - Programme 1 - Element 1.4 – IHO**

### **a Status of the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention**

IT reported on the status of the ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention in the MBSHC. To date only 8 among the 19 MS have ratified the protocol.

IHB informed the conference that a total of 30 MS of the IHO have approved the protocol and noted that other 18 are needed to have the 2/3 required.

### **b MBSHC to adopt objectives to accelerate the process of ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention**

The Chairman underlined the need to reach the target of 48 notifications of approval not later than three months before the opening of the next IHC (i.e. January 2012). He added that this item was also an action item of IRCC3 and it was decided IHB to invite the Monaco Government to send a diplomatic note to the governments of MS that have not yet ratified. Finally invited the representatives of the MS not yet ratified the protocol to contact their relevant authorities to accelerate the process of ratification. (Decision 2)

### **c Progress on procedure for MBSHC to designate their representatives to the Council**

IT presented the Draft Rules for the Designation of MBSHC Representatives to the IHO Council. The Chairman invited the MS to adopt them by silence procedure by the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2011. (Decision 3)

### **d MBSHC to encourage the approval of pending applications for IHO membership.**

The Chairman reported that Montenegro and Haiti are the pending applicants to IHO membership and according to the status of approval for Montenegro only one vote is missing, while for Haiti are missing 6 votes. He further invited the members not yet approved the applications to contact to their relevant authorities in order to accelerate the process by the end of July 2011. (Decision 4)

### **e Status of pending Member States in the region for depositing the instrument of Accession.**

The Chairman informed the Commission that only Bulgaria is the pending applicant in the region. During the 10th meeting of the BASWG, Bulgaria was informed and was invited to deposit her instrument of accession once again, but no progress reported yet.

## **f IHO Strategic Plan and Performance Monitoring**

President IHB reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> EIHC approved the IHO Strategic Plan (ISP) and requested the Directing Committee to address the preparation of the annual cycles of the new Strategic Mechanism, in consultation with the Chairmen of the IHO Committees (HSSC and IRCC). With CL 8/2011 IHB reported to Member States the actions taken after the Conference. This included Work Programmes (WP) drawn up according to the approved ISP; a paper sent to the Chairs of HSSC and IRCC seeking consideration on the impact of the ISP process on their work; and a request that MS provide comments on the wider issues of the Strategic Planning Process. Only two MS responded (UK and Brazil).

In May 2011 a new Assistant Director (previously known as Professional Assistant) was recruited and was assigned the task to assist the DC with the development of the ISP process, following the decisions of the Conference.

## **g XVIII IH Conference preparation**

President IHB reminded the Commission that in accordance with the 4<sup>th</sup> EIHC Decision 17 the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference will be held in Monaco from Monday 23 April to Friday 27 April 2012. He added that the Conference is the most important decision-making body of the IHO (Article IV of the Convention), and it is essential that all IHO MS are present not only to review the past activities of the Organization and the Bureau, but also to adopt an effective and realistic Work Programme and Budget for the next 5 years.

The Chairman encouraged MS to review the Conference draft agenda and forward their proposals.

## **h Nominate a representative to the IHR Editorial Board**

The Chairman informed the participants that according to IHO resolution 6/2009 the International Hydrographic Review will have an Editorial Board which will be comprised of representatives of all the RHCs and invited the Commission to nominate its representative to the Editorial Board.

TR expressed its willingness to be candidate for this nomination. After Commission's approval Turkey was designated as the representative of the MBSHC in the IHR Editorial Board. (Decision 5)

## **9 IHO WP - Programme - 2 Element 2.1 - Hydrographic Services and Standards (HSSC)**

IHB President reported on S-100, the IHO Universal Hydrographic Data Model (UHDM), which has been published in January 2010 in order to provide the framework for the development of the next generation hydrographic products and services. He stated that to date, work on several S-100 based product specifications was progressed. He added that a few extensions were made to the associated IHO on-line registry which was established to support the S-100 UHDM and S-100 based products. S-100 has since been recommended by the IMO as a baseline standard for the Common Maritime Data Structure required for e-Navigation.

## **10 IHO WP - Programme 3 - Element 3.1 - Cooperation with Member States and Attendance at Relevant Meetings.**

### **a National Reports**

The Chairman invited MS to brief on their activities. After the briefings he suggested MS to make a decision to send their national reports to Chair at least one month before the MBSHC meetings in line with the format in the IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended. Chair to provide the IHB with the National Reports to be posted on the IHO web site. The Commission approved this proposal (Decision 6).

Taking the opportunity of what reported by GR on GIS applications in hydrography and cartography, TR asked GR delegates to give a presentation on their experience in the next MBSHC meeting (Decision 7).

### **b Status of bilateral arrangements between MBSHC members**

The Chairman invited the participants to inform the Commission for any progress on the status of bilateral arrangements since the last meeting. He further encouraged MS to work in collaboration and to improve partner through joint hydrographic surveys and other bilateral arrangements.

### **c Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC)**

The Chairman gave a brief report on his participation in IRCC2 and IRCC3 representing MBSHC and informed the MS that his reports can be found in IHB website. He added that several items of IRCC were included in the MBSHC agenda and invited MS to take appropriate actions.

### **d Draft Disaster Plan for MBSHC**

The Chairman informed the participants that in accordance with Decision 2 of MBSHC16 a draft Disaster Plan was prepared and presented during IRCC2. He added that if there is no objection the Chair will circulate the draft disaster action plan to the MSs in order to provide comments (Decision 8). After that the Chair will circulate the consolidated draft disaster action plan (Decision 9).

## **11 IHO WP - Programme 3 - Element 3.2 – Increase Participation by Non-Member States.**

The Chairman noted that during the two years period, since the last meeting, all the non-IHO member states in the MBSHC area were informed on the activities of the IHO, especially on the Capacity Building. He further proposed the Commission to take a decision to invite non-IHO MSs to participate in the MBSHC and BASWG meetings (Decision 10).

## **12 IHO WP – Programme 3 – Element 3.3 – Capacity Building Management**

### **a Capacity Building Sub Committee Meeting – Decisions Affecting MBSHC**

### **b IHO Capacity Building Strategy. Development of submission, implementation and assessment procedures.**

The Chairman noted that as they have been informed by the Capacity Building Sub-Committee during IRCC3, Republic of Korea increased its CBSC funding from 100.000 to



400.000 US Dollars. He added that in accordance with CBSC suggestions, any applications for Capacity Building fund requirements should be submitted before 1st of April.

IHB noted that MBSHC should examine carefully its needs for training support through the Capacity Building Fund. A specific programme needs to be formulated and be passed to CBSC for consideration.

### **c Status of the working group for the safety of navigation in the Black and Azov Seas (BASWG)**

The Chairman invited TR to report on the 10th meeting of the Black and Azov Sea Working Group (BASWG) which took place in the premises of Turkish Navy-Office of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography (TN-ONHO) / Istanbul, under the Chairmanship of Turkey.

TR representative gave a detailed report of the meeting where hydrographic, cartographic and Maritime Safety Information (MSI) issues have been discussed as well as the cooperation among the Black Sea countries in order to fulfill SOLAS requirements and IHO recommendations throughout the region. He added that during the meeting the endorsed in MBSHC16 ToR and RoP were reviewed again and the Working Group decided to make some amendments. He further presented the revised ToR and RoP and invited the Commission for their endorsement. The Commission approved the amendment (Decision 11).

Closing his report TR representative requested IHB to investigate possible dates for the 11th BASWG meeting in September or October 2011 and inform the BASWG Chair for the relevant announcement (Decision 12)

### **d Designation of CBSC coordinator for MBSHC.**

The Chairman noted that during the IRCC3 meeting, RHC Chairs were asked to nominate representatives of their regions as Coordinators, in order to follow the activities of the Capacity Building Sub-Committee and invited the Commission to nominate the representative of MBSHC. He added that Turkey is a volunteer to be the Capacity Building Sub-Committee coordinator for MBSHC. The Commission approved the nomination of Turkey as CBSC Coordinator (Decision 13).

## **13 IHO WP - Programme 3 - Element 3.4 – Capacity Building Assessment**

Before discussing the results of the technical visits the President IHB invited the Commission to take a decision in order to keep non-IHO MSs in the region informed on all Capacity Building activities available through the IHO and other regional initiatives. The Commission endorsed this proposal (Decision 14).

### **a Results of technical visit to Georgia**

The Chairman stated that during the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of Black and Azov Seas Working Group (BASWG) Georgia asked a technical visit. This issue was discussed in IRCC2 and iaw IRCC02/07 the resources of the visit identified among Capacity Building Sub Committee (CBSC), MBSHC Chair and IHB. The visit was carried out between 14-16 December 2010 with the experts from Spain, Turkey and IHB. TR representative made a detailed presentation of the visit. Finally the Chairman invited the representatives of Georgia to follow the recommendations resulted from this visit.

## **b Technical visit to Syria**

The Chairman reported that according to previous Commission's decision and following allocation of funding by the Capacity Building Sub Committee, Syria (as well as Israel and Libya) was asked whether it needs a technical/advisory visit. The visit to Syria was planned for 14-18 June 2010 but it was postponed due to absence of the official approval from Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and later it was postponed again due to the unstable political situation. He added that MBSHC should keep being in contact with Syria in order to investigate suitable dates to carry out the visit and invited the Commission to take a decision on that. The Commission approved this proposal (Decision 15).

## **c Technical visits to Libya and Israel**

The Chairman informed the participants that until the meeting begins, no response has been received from Israel and Libya. He added that in case of decline the need for a visit by Israel and Libya, other requests will be identified. Nevertheless, he suggested further consultation with Israel and Libya on this issue and invited the Commission to agree this item to be included in the action list as an ongoing item (Decision 16).

## **d Definition of candidate items for submission to the IHO CBSC**

The Chairman asked the participants if there is any definition on new candidate items to be submitted to the CBSC. RO representative stated that his country was interested to organize a seminar on the establishment of the Romanian National Hydrographic Committee and called the participants to agree this item to be included in the action list of the meeting. The Commission approved this proposal (Decision 17).

The Chairman suggested the CBSC Coordinator to take any necessary action in coordination with Romania, other MSs, CBSC and IHB to carry out this seminar. The Commission agreed on that (Decision 18).

Finally the Chairman invited CBSC Coordinator to prepare MBSHC 2 years CB plan in coordination with MSs and Chair to be submitted for approval (Decision 19).

## **14 IHO WP - Programme 3 - Element 3.6 – Coordination of Global Surveying and Charting**

### **a Hydrographic survey status in the MBSHC area – C-55 review**

ES representative, as Hydrographic Survey Coordinator, made a presentation on the progress and status of hydrographic surveys in MBSHC area. Some problems with the systematic yearly updating on behalf of the MS have also reported. It was agreed all MS to send to Spain graphic status of their surveys yearly to February the 1<sup>st</sup>. An additional update should be sent three months before the MBSHC meetings (Decision 20).

### **b The methodology used for assessing and displaying survey status, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements.**

The Chairman noted that in MBSHC region the methodology currently used for assessing and displaying survey status is the graphical index which is prepared yearly by Spain. As the current methodology is not satisfactory, it can be improved to a web based vector data. He added that the methodology used for assessing and displaying survey status, was also discussed during the IRCC3 meeting where, taking into account navigational and MSDI requirements, it was decided a meeting to be conducted between CBSC the CBSC

RHC Coordinators and UK (lead) to design a framework for C-55 development. Finally he invited the Commission to agree MBSHC to participate to that meeting with CBSC coordinator and Chair (if so wishes). The meeting approved the proposal (Decision 21).

**c RENC operations (Progress made on RENC to RENC cooperation and ENC issues) (report by RENC operators)**

PRIMAR representative reported on the progress of cooperation of the two RENCs aiming at aligning the two current models that are in operation. A detailed description of the current RENC models has been commented on by the RENC member nations, and from this a 'Concept Model' designed in an attempt to reconcile the differing definitions of RENC activities. The Concept Model was discussed at a combined workshop held in Amsterdam in September 2010 by IC-ENC and Primar member nations. The overarching philosophy is that closer cooperation will bring benefit to the mariner and this benefit will be derived if actions are taken to harmonise as soon as possible the processes of the two RENCs. To date progress has been made in three key areas, Quality Assurance, Licensing and Data Protection. As next stage the RENCs have agreed a structured engagement plan for continued cooperation, including a formal annual programme of meetings (VTC and face to face) and agendas. The Operators are now in the process of formally describing the considerable progress that has been made, and also the areas of the Concept Model where agreement has not yet been reached.

**d Maintenance of MEDINTCHART scheme and improvement of availability of INT Chart series (Report by Region F Coordinator)**

FR Representative -Region F Coordinator- presented the report on the Maintenance of MEDINTCHART scheme and the improvement of availability of INT Chart series highlighting the ongoing issues and the new proposals.

**e Approval of ToR and RoP for Region F ICCWG (Report by Region F Coordinator)**

The Chairman noted that according to an action item of IRCC2 "*The implementation of the guidance for the preparation and maintenance of International chart schemes (CL 23/2010 of 3 March 2010)*.", RHC Chairs are requested to consider the generic TOR and ROP contained in Annex C to S-11 Part A, concerning the regional International Charting Coordination Working Groups (ICCWG). In this regard he invited the Commission to approve these generic TOR and ROP as TOR and ROP of Region F ICCWG. The Commission approved the proposal (Decision 22).

Also agreed MBSHC MSs and AMSs willing to participate to Region F ICCWG to provide contact details to Region F coordinator (Decision 23).

In order to facilitate the communication and work of the Region F ICCWG it was agreed IHB to provide password protected page on the IHB website (Decision 24).

**f Results of the 1st meeting of the region F- International Charting Coordination WG (Report by Region F Coordinator)**

FR representative reported that in accordance with MBSHC16 (decision 13), the 1st meeting of Region F - International Charting Coordination WG (ICCWG) took place in Paris from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2010, to consider the charting issues raised at the MBSHC 16. Unfortunately after lengthy discussions and proposals made by the Coordinator, no agreement was found. He added that the coordinator's proposals were distributed to all MBSHC Members for their consideration.

### **g Coordination of ENC scheme, consistency and quality (Report by Region F Coordinator)**

The Chairman stated that in the region the ENC coverage has large gaps as well as overlaps and therefore, MBSHC countries should agree on an ENC scheme as soon as possible. He added that, according to the relevant recommendations of the IHB and the WEND principles, all states should distribute their ENCs through the Regional ENC Coordination Centers (RENC) in order to achieve regional coordination for consistent ENC. He also reminded the decisions taken in the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of MBSHC regarding the procedures to follow for the ENC scheme and the production responsibilities. Finally, added that, unfortunately, before the ENC scheme and production responsibilities being agreed on, MS distributed their ENCs via RENCs.

### **h Status of MBSHC work for completion of adequate ENC coverage by 31 December 2010 (continuation) (Report by Region F Coordinator)**

The Chairman stated that after the decisions of the relevant IMO bodies, concerning the mandatory ECDIS carriage commencing in 2012 and in order to fulfill the IHO commitment regarding to achieve adequate coverage of ENCs by 2010, it is required to cover all the sea areas in the region with consistent ENCs. So, I invite Region F Coordinator, France, to inform the Commission with the Status of MBSHC work for completion of adequate ENC coverage by now.

Region F Coordinator (FR) in its presentation gave the background and the objectives of the production programme in the area and presented the already adopted and the proposed amendments of the ENC coverage in all the Usage Bands in order to achieve this goal.

HR representative made a presentation trying to give an analysis of the ENC data overlapping problems in the Adriatic Sea and provided a proposal for a possible solution of these problems.

### **i Status of Harmonization of MEDINTCHART Catalogue (Report by Region F Coordinator, MSs)**

After discussion between MS on all the issues of the Catalogue the Commission approved the following actions:

- Region F Coordinator to provide the IHB with the draft MEDINTCHART Catalogue (May 2011) and ENC UB1 schemes propositions and all relevant documents in order to be posted on the IHB web site (Decision 25).
- Region F Coordinator to circulate a letter regarding the MEDINTCHART Catalogue and ENC UB1 schemes propositions to be adopted by Region F ICCWG members. (Decision 26).
- MBSHC MS and AMS to comment on the draft MEDINTCHART Catalogue and ENC UB1 schemes propositions to the Region F Coordinator (Decision 27).
- Region F Coordinator to circulate a table for the inputs of MSs and AMSs in order to be sent to the WEND WG iaw the action item of IRCC03/13 (Decision 28).
- MBSHC MS and AMS to provide inputs to Region F Coordinator. (Decision 29).

## **15 IHO WP - Programme 3 - Element 3.7 – Maritime Safety Information (MSI)**

### **a World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee (WWNWS) meeting – decisions affecting MBSHC**

The Chairman informed the participants that the IMO Maritime Safety Committee at its 89th session adopted the revised text of the NAVTEX Manual which had been prepared by the IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Sub-Committee and approved by IMO COMSAR earlier this year. MSC89 decided that the revised manual will come into force on 1 January 2013.

### **b MSI in NAVAREA III area (Report by NAVAREA III Coordinator).**

ES representative, as NAVAREA III Coordinator, reported on the MSI activities in the region. More specifically he gave an updating of the operational status of the NAVTEX stations in the area, he presented updated GMDSS Master Plan and informed the participants on an agreement of October 2010 between NAVAREA II (France) and NAVAREA III (Spain) which fixed the limit between the two areas in meridian 05 45' W (West side of Gibraltar).

## **16 Reports from and to the Adjacent Hydrographic Commissions (NSHC, EatHC)**

The Chairman informed the participants that according to a recommendation of MBSHC16 the Chairs of North Sea Hydrographic Commission and Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission were invited to participate in the MBSHC meeting. The hydrographer of Nigeria, chairman of EatHC, has kindly informed that he will not attend due to other commitments. The chairman of the North Sea Hydrographic Commission (FR) who is also member of the EatHC was asked to inform the participants on the activities of the said RHCs.

## **17 Report to IRCC**

Following the recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the IRCC in June 2009 the Commission empowered the MBSHC Chair to highlight in the standard meeting report the items that he would like to refer to the IRCC (Decision 30) and to invite Chairs of adjacent Regional Hydrographic Commissions to attend the MBSHC meetings (Decision 31).

## **18 Any Other Business**

The Chairman informed the participants that with IHO CL 72/2009 the IHB reported on Member States approval of the deletion of IHO Resolution K2.15. "Relations with World Bank - Harbor Engineering Projects". FR, whilst supporting the deletion of this resolution, requested the IHB to communicate with Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) and to request to take measures at their level to encourage, as necessary, the systematic inclusion of a part on hydrography and nautical information in development projects for port infrastructures or, more generally, having an impact on the safety of navigation in their region. Following that IHB President sent a letter to RHC Chairpersons to bring this matter to the attention of their Commissions; to encourage such activity; and to monitor the situation as appropriate. By the commission was considered appropriate to take an action on this (Recommendation 2).

Another issue under discussion was the amendment of the MBSHC Statutes in order to take into account the future structure of IHO. In this regard MBSHC Chair was entitled by the Commission to prepare and circulate to the MS for comments the wording to amend the article 4 of the MBSHC Statutes (Decision 32). Following that MS were invited to comment on the new wording of article 4 of the MBSHC Statutes (Decision 33).

## **19 Date and Venue of the next MBSHC Meeting**

The Chairman informed the participants that Turkey (Istanbul) may be the host of the next MBSHC 18th meeting. But as this is subject to the approval of Turkish national authorities he reserved to confirm by the end of August 2011. In case that Turkey will not host the meeting, Italy asked to investigate the possibility. In case Italy not host the meeting, the next meeting will be in the IHB and the Vice-Chair will be Italy.