

Report of the EU Marine and Maritime Policies Working Group EU2MWG

Submitted by:	France
Related Documents:	-
Related Projects:	-

Meetings held and actions conducted during reporting period

In 2006, NHSC established the EUM2P WG. France was chosen as chairman of this WG. Contacts, meetings and correspondence between representatives of European Commission, chairman of the WG and International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) resulted in a draft of a “Memorandum of Understanding on establishing a cooperation on maritime affairs between the European Commission and the IHO (MoU). This MoU was signed by Admiral Alexandros Maratos and Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki during the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference in April 2012.

Since that date, several meetings have taken place between the representatives of Hydrographic Offices of Member States of EU/EEA and with European Commission, including:

- in Brussels, 10 October 2012, DG Mare presented its roadmap for the implementation of Marine Knowledge (a Green Paper “Marine Knowledge 2020” had been issued in August) and for the flagship project “European Maritime Observation and Data network” EMODnet. HOs presented their missions and their competencies.
- in Brussels, 5 April 2013, France proposed a roadmap meeting the common needs in the European waters.
- in Wollongong, June 2013, FR presented to the IRCC a proposal made by Sweden on behalf NHC to establish an IHO network of focal points of the RHCs for developing actions in the framework of the MoU. The IRCC decided to create the “IHO-EU Network” and tasked FR to propose ToRs.
- in Saint-Mandé (France), 26 June 2013, France, Sweden and Germany were tasked to make a draft paper on a “Joint European Coastal Mapping Programme (JECMaP)”. After a workshop in Brest in October to share experiences in bathymetric Lidar, a draft was sent to DG Mare, 18 October 2013.
- in Brussels, 24 October 2013, where JECMaP was presented and received support from DG Mare. HOs were tasked to describe more extensively the contents and results the programme could deliver.
- in Saint-Mandé, 3 and 4 February 2014, an IHO policy regarding EMODnet was defined (and presented by the representative of IHB at the inauguration meeting of the permanent secretariat of EMODnet, 19 February). Discussion took place on the ToRs and composition of IHO-EU network WG.
- in Oostende, 19 February 2014, DG Mare gave information about budget and calendar for JECMaP.

The paper describing JECMaP was reviewed by the WG and sent to DG Mare by the end of April.

A meeting is scheduled in Saint-Mandé (3 June) to discuss the share of the work, and another is planned with DG Mare (25 June).

The establishment of the “IHO-EU Network Working Group” and its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure have been approved by the IRCC Members (see IRCC CL 04/2014).

The present members of the WG are France (EAthC), Germany (NSHC), Greece (MBSHC), Sweden (BSHC), to be defined for NHC and ARHC, and the chair is to be elected.

Action required of NSHC

The NSHC is invited:

- to endorse the report,
- to close the EUM2PWG, considering its activities being transferred to IHO-EU Network WG.