

## 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO-EU NETWORK WORKING GROUP Saint-Mandé, France, 28-29 January

The IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG), set up by the Inter-Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) to monitor and deal with activities and processes developed under the aegis of the European Union (EU), held its second meeting in Saint-Mandé, France, on 28 and 29 January 2015, at the invitation of the French Hydrographic Office (SHOM).

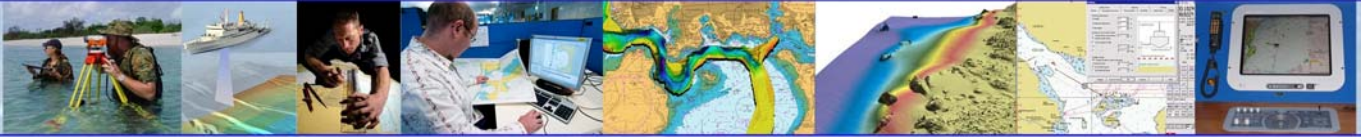
The meeting, chaired by France, was attended by representatives from Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Director Gilles Bessero represented the IHB. The meeting was organized in three sessions. The first two sessions were devoted to reviewing the status and perspective of respectively the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) and Maritime Spatial Planning. Representatives of the European Commission (Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries - DG Mare) attended these sessions. The last session focused on the work plan of the Working Group.



### ***EMODnet and related issues***

The Working Group was informed by DG Mare that the outcome of the call for tenders on coastal mapping, to which a consortium led by SHOM including 11 other Hydrographic Offices had responded, was expected to be announced in March. DG Mare indicated that a new call for tenders on the ingestion and safe-keeping of marine data held by both public and private operators was in preparation with a budget of 4 million euros. Another call for tenders is expected later in 2015, probably in the last quarter of the year, to initiate the third phase of EMODnet (EMODnet III), with a budget of 5 million euros. The objective will be to move from low resolution (approximately 250 m) digital terrain models to multiple resolution models aligned on the resolution at which the survey data was captured. Noting the requirement of the European Commission that the data and models be made freely available, the IENWG highlighted policy issues related to national security and cost recovery.





## **Maritime Spatial Planning**

The Working Group reviewed the recent EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) which came into force in September 2014. EU Member States are required to reflect the Directive in their national legislation by September 2016. At that date, the national authority responsible for MSP should be nominated and a process for consulting the public and the stakeholders should be established. The directive also requires that plans covering the territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zones of each EU Member State be in place by 2021. Germany presented its national arrangements. The Working Group noted that although the role of HOs could be limited to the provision of low resolution bathymetry in support of the general planning phase, MSP offers an opportunity for HOs to position themselves as the national focal point for MSP, as part of the implementation of Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures.

## **Work plan**

The following work items were identified by the IENWG:

- Implementing the coastal mapping project, subject to success of the tender;
- Preparing EMODnet III;
- Monitoring EU initiatives relevant to HOs;
- Lobbying EU organs and groups on HO activities and issues.

Due to the uncertainty of the outcome of the call for tenders on coastal mapping, the HOs represented at the meeting were reluctant to commit resources to the preparation of EMODnet III. Following a presentation by Sweden on the set up and operation of the [Baltic Sea Bathymetry Database](#), the IENWG agreed that inviting the other Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHC) concerned to consider implementing a similar concept in their region would be the best preparation for EMODnet III. Germany, assisted by Sweden and the IHB, will draft a document which will be further refined by the Working Group and then circulated to the RHC Chairs.

The Working Group invited the Chair to seek the opportunity to liaise with the European Parliament Intergroup on "Seas, rivers, islands and coastal areas".

Following a request submitted to the IHB by an industry stakeholder, the Working Group also agreed to consider how the EU Directive on Marine Equipment could foster the requirement that software-based equipment - such as ECDIS - be updated to the latest version of the relevant standards. The IHB representative agreed to draft a background paper for further consideration of the IENWG.

Future events relevant to the IENWG scope include the celebration of European Maritime Day on 28 and 29 May and an EMODnet "Jamboree" in October this year. The Chair will liaise with Greece, as host Member State, on potential IENWG involvement in the programme of European Maritime Day.

## **Next meeting**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> IENWG Meeting will depend on the outcome of the call for tenders on coastal mapping and the opportunities to liaise with the EMODnet Secretariat. Video-teleconferencing will be considered as the preferred communications medium.





## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL E-NAVIGATION UNDERWAY CONFERENCE MS Pearl Seaways, at Sea, 27 - 29 January

The 5th International e-Navigation Underway Conference was held onboard the Baltic Sea ferry *Pearl Seaways* from 27 to 29 January and organized by the Danish Maritime Authority and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA). A full international speaker programme led to lively discussions on how to implement the e-Navigation concept.

The Conference was attended by over 150 representatives from many parts of the world and representing a cross-section of interests ranging from mariners, maritime administrations, significant flag States, navigation equipment manufacturers, academia and international maritime organizations.



MV *Pearl Seaways* preparing to leave Copenhagen

Captain Simon Peletier, President of the International Maritime Pilots' Association (IMPA), provided an opening address in which he urged the audience to concentrate on delivering practical e-Navigation capabilities that would make the mariner's job at sea easier and safer.

This was followed by observations

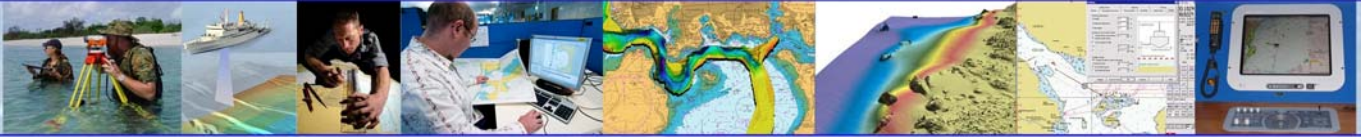
from Mr Alan Blume, Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs for the Marshall Islands, representing a significant Flag State. Mr Blume confirmed that e-Navigation should provide ways to make existing operations and requirements at sea safer and more efficient - it should not be an excuse to impose additional obligations and workloads on mariners. Speakers from industry, academia and those engaged in developing e-Navigation capabilities then provided information on their activities and how these will contribute to the successful implementation of e-Navigation.

President Robert Ward, representing the IHO, also addressed the Conference. He described the underpinning role that hydrography plays in all human activities that take place in, on or under the sea. He went on to describe how hydrography and nautical charting will underpin many aspects of e-Navigation, which he described as the "*maritime Intranet*", where mariners, ship operators and all those involved in commercial maritime activity can provide and obtain authoritative and relevant digital information in a simpler and better way than at present.

He emphasized the role of the ISO standards-based IHO S-100 data exchange standard as an underpinning element of e-Navigation in ensuring that the information can be input once only and will be interoperable with all the other related information in the e-Navigation digital information environment.

A North American-based version of the e-Navigation Underway Conference will be held from 28 to 30 September in New York, USA. The sixth e-Navigation Underway Conference in Europe will be held in early February 2016.





## COURTESY VISIT BY PROFESSOR ADOTÉ BLIM BLIVI, VICE-CHAIR OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC)

IHB, Monaco, 15 January

Professor Adoté Blim Blivi, from the University of Lomé (Togo), Director of the National Oceanographic Data Centre of the Centre for Integrated Coastal Management and Environment (<http://www.nodc-togo.org/>), paid a courtesy visit to the IHB in January. As Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, Prof. Blivi was participating in a three-day workshop, organized by the International Ocean Acidification Coordination Centre of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Prof. Blivi met President Robert Ward and Director Gilles Bessero. As a former active participant of the Conferences of the Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission (EAthC), he apologized for not being present in Casablanca at EAthC-13 in September 2014. Director Bessero and Assistant Director Alberto Costa Neves provided Prof. Blivi with an update on the IHO Capacity Building Strategy that might be of interest to the IOC. They also provided the relevant IHO documentation.



Prof. Blivi provided details of the High Council for the Sea that the President of the Togolese Republic convened in September 2014. This Council, which includes the National Working Committee on Hydrography, Oceanography and Safety of Maritime Navigation of Togo, should become an important tool for raising the awareness of maritime stakeholders in the country and in the region on hydrographic issues. In October this year, the Togolese Republic plans to host a summit on maritime security bringing together the Heads of the Coastal States of the African Union. Prof. Blivi is now investigating the possibility of preparing a side event under the topic "Ocean and Great Issues" which could help promote the activities of the IHO and its Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic Commission, back-to-back with this summit.