

15th meeting of the IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG15) Cork, Ireland 21st May 2025

Contribution to the 2024 IHO Work Programme

Task 1.1.4

Maintain relationship with European Union Initiatives (such as INSPIRE and EMODnet)

High level summary

- Interesting insights and background shared by DG MARE on forthcoming key EU documents: the *EMODNET Vision 2035*, expected by September 2025 and the *EU Ocean Pact* to be revealed during the 3rd UNOC Conference,
- First participation of DG MOVE to an IENWG Meeting to address Maritime Space Strategy,
- Good coverage of S-100 subject matters within the constellation of EU INTERREG Funded Projects.

Attendance

The 15th meeting of the IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG15) was held in Cork, Ireland on 21st May 2025, hosted at Metropole Hotel by the Maritime Administration of Ireland.

Fourteen participants from 7 IHO European Member States attended that meeting, either in-person or remotely. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Pierre-Yves DUPUY (Shom, France) assisted by Ms. Adeline SOUF (Shom, France). IHO Assistant Director Eric LANGLOIS represented the IHO Secretariat.

The following European Commission representatives took part in the meeting:

- M. Remy DENOS from DG MARE,
- Ms. Gesine MEISSNER and M. Martin SIEDEL from DG MOVE.

The chosen dates and venue gave the attendees the opportunity to attend the European Maritime Days (EMD) organized by the European Commission from 21 to 23 May 2025 in Cork, Ireland.

Key Outputs

The *EU Ocean Pact*, whose public consultation received inputs from several IHO MS and the IENWG, aims at addressing a large scope of Ocean related topics, such as Governance, Ocean Health, Sustainability, Blue Economy, Coastal Communities and Islands, Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Literacy. In particular, DG MARE highlighted several proposals of interest for the IHO EU community:

- The development of a dedicated IT Platform to gather Ocean Observation Plans and Scheme from all Public Bodies & Individuals,
- The creation of an *Ocean Observation Forum* to gather representatives from both EU institutions and EU Member States.

First participation of DG MOVE to an IENWG Meeting with a dedicated session on Maritime Space Strategy. Both Parties convened to take advantage of their EMD attendance to have recurring meetings. With the support of DG MARE, promising contacts made by IENWG/FG PT with other EU Bodies focused on International Cooperation and Capacity Building: DG INTPA (International Partnerships), EEAS (European External Action Service) and EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency). The organization of a high-level meeting between IHO Representatives and Officials from these Directorate-general/Agencies is envisaged by Spring 2026.

The S-100 matter remains well addressed among the constellation of projects benefiting from EU's INTERREG Fundings: S-100 Production harmonization (Baltic Sea E-Nav Project), SECOM/MCP distribution system testing (MaDaMe Project) and IP-connectivity standardization (Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak Project) and the production of innovative E-Navigation services (INSTALL Project) are among the EU funded projects involving EU HOs within large partnerships.

The question of Seabed Security was also addressed by NL, particularly the availability of underwater cables and pipelines locations as open data. In NL, this has led to the "depublication" of submarine cable data from the internet, in contradiction with pan-European datasets (EMODnet Human Activities), electronic and paper nautical charts where tracks of all submarine cables and pipelines are displayed in compliance with IHO Standards.

Photo

(credits: Martin SIEDEL , DG Move)



Upcoming meeting

The dates and venue for the next 16th IENWG meeting were not yet confirmed. Members agreed to sustain the principle of a back-to-back organization with the European Maritime Days event that will take place in Limassol (Cyprus) on the week commencing 18th May 2026, and on the principle to organize an IENWG side event along with the 4th IHO Assembly (19-23 April 2026, Monaco).