



**EC-IHO11 MEETING –
10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOU BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION AND THE IHO
Brussels, Belgium, 6 May**

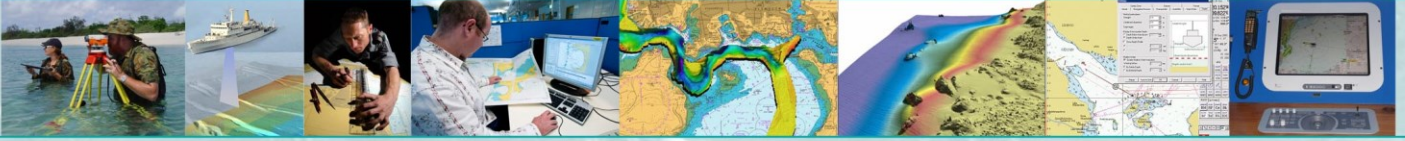
Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2022	
Task 1.1.4	Maintain relationship with European Union Initiatives (such as INSPIRE and EMODnet)

The event celebrating the "Tenth Anniversary of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)" was held on 6 May 2022 at the headquarters of the European Union's DG Mare in Brussels (Belgium).

The event was chaired by the Director of SHOM, Ingénieur General Laurent Kerleguer and attended by Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, representatives of various Directorates General of the European Union (EU) and IHO representatives of twelve European Hydrographic Offices (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden). Director Luigi Sinapi represented the IHO Secretariat.

The event was opened by the respective speeches of Commissioner Sinkevičius and Director Sinapi, who underlined the results achieved in 10 years of intense cooperation between the two Organizations, thanks to the commitment of the European Hydrographic Offices and the IHO-EU Network Working Group (IENWG). The IENWG was activated for the implementation of the MoU between the European Commission and IHO and for identifying EU activities and processes on matters of interest to Hydrographic Offices and the value of the EU initiatives in the field of Hydrography.

"The hydrography community has the ability and know-how to develop a coherent plan for ensuring safe navigation. But if we want to use the data to inform and shape other policies, such as coastal protection or spatial planning, we need a conversation with those who need this information. With other communities observing the ocean for fisheries management, for environmental monitoring and for offshore licensing", Commissioner Sinkevičius said to seal the cooperation between the two institutions. "It is important to continue in the wake of the existent MoU, have a look at the future and work to update the MoU on the basis of the new challenging endeavours in favour of the Ocean and a renovated beneficial reciprocity between the EU and the IHO", Director Sinapi said to underline the importance of initiatives such as the MoU, in the context of a renewed regional and global interest for the Ocean.



European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Mr Virginijus Sinkevičius and IHO Director Luigi Sinapi at the meeting, and for the signing of the commemorative poster for the 10th Anniversary of the signature of the IHO-EU MoU.

The opening of the event concluded with the signing of a commemorative poster of the first 10 years of the signature of the MoU between the European Commission and IHO, and the intention to continue the activities of common interest for sustainable development of the seas of interest to the European Union.

The meeting continued with the interventions of the representatives of the European Hydrographic Offices and of the different Directorates General of the European Union, through presentations focused on the ongoing and future projects of the European Union on EMODNET bathymetry, Coastal mapping, and the EU Directives on Maritime Spatial Planning, Ocean Observation, Marine Strategy Framework, and Sustainable Mobility. IHO initiatives on the new Universal Data Model S-100 and the increase of use of data and products from the IHO and Hydrographic Offices were presented as well.