

IENWG 10 4

4. Legal Representation of Maritime Limits on the EU websites, documents, maps.. (Shom) Visio conf J Smeekaert and D. Carval and All

4.1 The Shom is responsible of the diffusion of the official maritime limits for France, under the umbrella of the prime Minister's maritime office (SG Mer).

We insure a watch on the representation of our maritime limits and we found, on different occasions, wrong or non actualized sources for these sensitive data.

Julien Smeekaert, in charge of the Maritime limits office at Shom, presented the example of the wrong representation of French maritime limits by the European Environment Agency.

IENWG-10-4 1A

Different participants, or colleagues by email reported the same observation, in Portugal, Greece, Italy..

It seems necessary to deliver information about the way to find the uptodate official data for maritime limits in each EU member State to the managers of EU portals; EMODNET, EEA, Atlas of the seas..

As was done for the coastline data for the EMODNET Portals, the Secretary of the WG proposed to fill and share a questionnaire to identify the sources of official data in each EU country and deliver this info to the managers of EU marine info-platforms. *IENWG 10-4 1B*

During the meeting, some participants explained that their Foreign office wouldn't want to deliver this information.

It was decided that we will inform all the EU-HO about this problem and suggest to explain it to their national responsible of Maritime limits.

Nevertheless, the Chair and the Executive Secretary remain convinced that it is necessary to deliver an information, easy to use, to the EU institutions which might have to represent the maritime limits of EU countries. Basically a point of contact would be useful. We understood that some countries doesn't agree with a representation of their limits but *the actual situation is that they are represented and wrongly.*

-For France, we will work with the french Ministry of foreign affairs to send a letter with an explanation and the adress of our website *maritimelimits.gouv.fr* to a list of EU institutions. A common document with the details of a maximum of EU maritime member States would be more efficient and powerful.

-In other side, we get your attention on the fact that these limits could be integrated in the category "geospatial" of the high value dataset for the PSI Directive and your country would have an obligation to publish it.

4.2 Representation of Maritime Limits by the EU Member States

With the experience of 6 EU projects on maritime spatial planning, it is noted difficulties in the representation of maritime limits to obtain a maritime basin or European common picture.

IENWG-10-3 2A

The INSPIRE representation, tested in the EU projects, doesn't satisfy all the needs of MSP.

To compensate this, the countries adopt their own representation system.

It is recommended by the IENWG to the EU-H.Os to test the S121 to increase the interoperability of these data and climb a step through a common representation.