



12th ARHC Conference

12 - 16 September 2022

Report of the IHO-EU network working group (IENWG)

Background

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was established between the IHO and the European Commission (EC) in 2021. The purpose is to provide a framework ensuring a continuing liaison between IHO and EU in the specific areas of common interest. The EU Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) acts as the contact point on the EC side. From the IHO side, the IHO-EU Network WG (IENWG) has been established as a working group under IRCC, which acts as the IHO contact point. The IENWG is chaired by France, Pierre-Yves Dupuy, and consists of representatives from all Regional Hydrographic Commissions concerned. Denmark represents the ARHC.

The IHO is represented by Director Mr. Sinapi, The following member states represent the RHCs concerned:

- Arctic HC (ARHC) – Denmark
- Baltic Sea HC (BSHC) – Sweden
- Eastern Atlantic HC (EAtHC) – France
- Mediterranean and Black Seas HC (MBSHC) – Greece
- Nordic HC (NHC) – Norway
- North Sea HC (NSHC) – Germany

The meetings are always open for any IHO member state to participate in. Italy and Croatia have usually participated in the IENWG meetings.

IHO-EU Network meetings and representatives

IENWG 12 – was arranged as a VTC Event, 8-9 Dec 2021 with 11 European Member States.

On 6 May 2022, a special event took place in Brussels; the representatives from IHO, 12 European Members States and the EC participated in the event. The participants recognized the great joint achievements of the 10 past years and they committed to strengthening their partnership

Important topics for the IHO-EU Network:

- Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call by which €1 billion is to be spent for research and innovation and the Digital Twin of the Ocean.
- “Ocean Observation –Sharing Responsibility”, a strategic consultation was launched on 20 November by DG Mare. A coordinated approach was recommended to reinforce the strength of the IHO contribution in general.
- The release of the full EMODnet Bathymetry Digital Terrain Model 2020 product and associated services is to become a key foundation of the Digital Twin of the Ocean.
- Maritime Spatial Planning projects and calls for proposals:
 - MSP Directive 2014/89/EU
 - IENWG represented at the European Commission Expert sub-group on MSP
 - Necessity to develop cooperation between EU MS for interoperability of data
 - Some data still to be produced

- EU Directive on Public Sector Information:
 - A European strategy for data including data availability, data sharing, data interoperability, data governance and data infrastructures and technologies. One of the key issues is if and when some S-57 data are included in the official list of the so-called “high value datasets”.
 - European Directive 2019/1024 of 20 June 2019 on Open Data and the re-use of Public Sector Information
 - New concept: High Value Dataset (HVD)
 - Thematic categories listed in the directive (Geospatial, Earth observation & environment, meteorological, ...)
 - Implementing Regulation will define the list of HVD belonging to these categories
 - Potential impact on resources of EU national hydrographic offices.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the ARHC continue to monitor the ongoing work within the EC through participation in the IHO-EU Network.

Action required of ARHC12

The ARHC12 is invited to:

- a. Note the report;
- b. Take any other action as appropriate.