

IHO-EU Network Report

1. General

The objectives of IHO-EU Network WG:

- a. Identify EU activities and processes on matters of interest to Hydrographic Offices (HOs).
- b. Establish a common understanding of the issues when possible.
- c. Consider and propose the ways and channels to interface with EU policies, activities and processes (mechanisms) through Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) initiatives, through the IRCC or through the IHO in general.
- d. Facilitate common actions of HOs related to EU programmes.
- e. Liaise with relevant Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) WGs for technical matters (e.g. standardization).
- f. Advise IRCC on the impact of EU policies, activities and processes in the maritime domain on the IHO programme of work.

The IHO-EU Network WG shall be composed of a representative from each RHC of which at least one EU/EEA Member State (MS) is a member. It is recommended that this representative be from an IHO MS from the EU/EEA.

Chair: Pierre-Yves Dupuy (France)

Executive Secretary: Corine Lochet (France)

BSHC representative: Annika Kindeberg, SMA.

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2020:

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

2. Meetings during the period

10th Meeting of the IENWG was held in Saint-Mandé, France, 14-15 January 2020, hosted by Shom.

The IENWG-10 meeting was chaired by Pierre-Yves Dupuy (France) supported by Corine Lochet (France) as Executive Secretary of the IENWG. 14 delegates from nine Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Portugal and Sweden) participated in the meeting. Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHO Secretariat.

The meeting was opened with a status report by France on the issues raised by the implementation of the new European Directive 2019/1024 of 20 June 2019 on open data and the re-use of public sector information. The way this new directive is implemented at national level may impact the economic models of some European Hydrographic Offices. It is likely, actually, that chart datasets be included in the List of High Values Datasets by some countries. Some suggestions and recommendations were made to harmonize the positions as far as possible and will be shared soon.

The meeting also addressed other important topics:

- The future of EMODnet: for the time being, EMODnet is considered as a project and not as a permanent infrastructure although an increasing number of stakeholders (incl. IHO DCDB and GEBCO) make use of it as a sustainable and operational portal for viewing and downloading high-resolution bathymetric gridded data.
- The sensitive and technical question with regard to the quality of the representation of maritime limits on European Union geospatial portals, sometimes used to support decision-making in the establishment of the framework for maritime spatial planning (EU Directive);
- The review of the projects in which European Hydrographic Offices are involved.

The Executive Secretary presented the list of possible European major events where the IENWG could consider the possibility of highlighting IHO achievements and responsibilities (European Maritime Day, Eurogeos General Assembly, Inspire Conference, EMODnet Open Conference and Jamboree, etc.). This will be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the support of hosting countries.

In support of all these events as well as the next steps of the IHO contribution into EOOS, it was suggested to develop a white paper on the progress made since the announcement of the coastal mapping strategy (2017) and on the opportunity to experiment S-1xx standards beyond the IHO horizon.

The 11th meeting of the IENWG is scheduled to be held in Dublin, Ireland, from 2 to 3 December 2020, giving the opportunity to participate in the event “20 years of Seabed Mapping” led by Infomar.

3. Actions for BSHC25

The BSHC 25th Conference is requested to:

- Take note of this report
- Discuss the future perspectives of the WG and the networking.