

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 2021:

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

2. Meetings during the period

11th meeting as VTC, 2 - 3 December 2020, originally planned to be held in Dublin, Ireland, from 2 to 3 December 2020, back to back with “20 years of Seabed Mapping” led by Infomar.

Ingénieur en chef Pierre-Yves Dupuy (France), Acting Chair, was re-elected as Chair of the IENWG and was supported by Corine Lochet (France) as Executive Secretary for running the meeting. 22 delegates from 15 Member States (Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France,

Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden) were able to participate in the meeting. Director Luigi Sinapi and Assistant Director Yves Guillam represented the IHO Secretariat.

Important topics from the meeting:

- ✓ 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”.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Director Luigi Sinapi briefed the IENWG on the importance of marine observation programmes and the IHO initiatives and joint programmes such as Seabed 2030, which are currently underway and are aligned with the new IHO Strategic Plan 2021- 2026.
- ✓ The release of the full EMODnet Bathymetry Digital Terrain Model 2020 product and associated services which is to become a key foundation of the Digital Twin of the Ocean.
- ✓ Maritime Spatial Planning projects and calls for proposals;
- ✓ EU-funded projects; participants were invited to promote the IHO S-100 framework and select associated S-100 based products to ensure interoperability and the efficiency of production lines and data flow in Hydrographic Offices in the long term.

3. Actions for BSHC26

The BSHC 26th Conference is requested to:

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