

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 2022:

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

2. Meetings during the period

a) 12th meeting as VTC, 8-9 December 2021.

Ingénieur en chef Pierre-Yves Dupuy (France), Acting Chair supported by Corine Locket (France) as Executive Secretary. 22 delegates from 13 Member States (Croatia, **Denmark**, **Estonia**, France, **Germany**, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania and **Sweden**) were able to participate in the meeting. Director Luigi Sinapi represented the IHO Secretariat.

Important topics from the meeting:

- ✓ European strategy on digitisation and data presented by NL and the “high value datasets” was discussed.
- ✓ DK presented the EU commission’s evaluation of the Inspire Directive. Has the Directive achieved its objectives, is it effective, efficient, relevant and coherent.
- ✓ FR presented their ‘Horizon 2021-2027’ program, and communications from the EU Commission on Blue Economy and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), highlighting the opportunities for the HOs, especially the sustainable use of ecosystems, Safety and surveillance and climate change threats, as the new challenges offered by the European Green Deal.
- ✓ DK presented the BSNSMSDIWG report, highlighting the opportunity to investigate the possibilities to establish a joint online meeting between the EU MSP Technical Expert group on data and the BSNSMSDIWG, in order to share information and to identify areas of cooperation, and how the BSHC and NSHC could work with S-122 and the possibility to establish a pilot project with the North Sea and Baltic Sea as an S-122 test bed.
- ✓ Director Luigi Sinapi intervened on the importance of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, established by UN-GGIM 7 in 2017, to develop more precise guidance on how to measure the application of UN guidance principles on the basis of the Integrated Geographic Information Framework in Hydrography (IGIF-H), in order also to help MSDIWG in measuring the assigned SPI of the new IHO Strategic Plan.
- ✓ FR presented EMODNet and the importance of EMODNet data ingestion for the achievement of the final goal of the Nippon Foundation GEBCO-Seabed2030 project, announcing the release of full EMODnet Bathymetry Digital Terrain Model (DTM) 2022 and associated services.;
- ✓ important events in 2022-2023:
 - The EU Maritime days in 2022 and 2023, respectively hosted by Italy and France;
 - Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the signature of the EU-IHO MoU.

b) 10-year celebration in Brussels, 6 May 2022

Meeting and celebration with European Commissioner for environment, oceans and fisheries (Virginijus Sinkevicius), IHO Director Luigi Sinapi and participants from MS (Belgium, **Denmark**, France, **Germany**, Ireland, Italy, Netherland, Norway, Portugal, Romania, **Sweden**, Greece). The meeting was also attended by DG MARE, DG CLIMA and EMSA.

BSHC activities that was mentioned in the MS (SE) presentation:

- Project FAMOS has been essential for fulfilling HELCOM Baltic sea action plan;
- BS chart datum. Harmonizing of navigational products. Geodetic reference, including water level information;
- EMOD-net bathymetry for the Baltic.

3. Actions for BSHC27

The BSHC 27th Conference is requested to:

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