

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: Adeline Souf (France)

BSHC representative: Annika Axne, SMA.

Contribution to the IHO Work Programme 2023:

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

2. Meetings during the period

14th meeting in Svendborg, DK, 29 May 2024 – back-to-back with EMD (European Maritime Day). The meeting was hosted by DGA (DK).

17 delegates from 9 Member States (**Denmark**, France, **Germany**, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania and **Sweden**) were able to participate in the meeting. Director Luigi Sinapi represented IHO Secretary and Remy Denos from DG MARE participated (by video) second half of the meeting.



From the identified IENWG Worktracks, the following projects were presented and discussed at the meeting:

Worktrack 1 - EU Maritime Policies

- All Ocean Observation Project
- GreenData4all and Green Deal Data Space
- HVD survey results

The survey included responses from 7 MS. The provided grid size of bathymetric data varies from 20-300 m and 2 of 7 provide historical data. Main challenges of OD/HVD are funding, market expectation and resources according to the responses.

Worktrack 2 – Data Collection

- Seamap2030
- EMODnet Bathymetry
- Seabed2030

Worktrack 3 – S-100

- Baltic Sea e-nav and MaDaMe projects

The presentation of BS e-Nav and MaDaMe projects (SE) was positively received and IENWG is interested to follow the progress of the Baltic Sea activities.

Worktrack 4 – Capacity Building

- Roadmap for capacity development of IHO
- EnMAR project
- IHO Fund Generation Project Team

The proposal elaborated by the IENWG under the leadership of Belgium on *“IHO and EC Cooperation in Third Countries for Hydrographic Capacity Development”* was discussed and commended by the WG, as a strong example to demonstrate that IHO priorities and EC international development priorities are synergetic, thereby offering potential for mutual benefits by intensifying cooperation. The proposal was presented to IRCC-16 and to the IHO Fund Generation Project Team.

DG Mare Deputy Head Remy Denon presentation “*Ocean Observation: enabling coordination and synergies*” was followed by a discussion which resulted in planning a high-level meeting between EU Commission and IENWG at the end of 2024/beginning of 2025. Some [key messages](#) from IENWG were presented to Mr Denos, for example the importance of continued focus on the S-1XX services to ensure safety and efficiency of navigation and the sustainable use of the ocean resource.

Mr Pierre-Yves Dupuy was re-elected as Chair of the IENWG for the next 3 years.

3. Actions for BSHC29

The BSHC 29th Conference is requested to:

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