

Report on NSHC EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG (NSHC EUM2WG)

1. BACKGROUND

Under Conclusion n° 81, the NSHC, during its 27th Conference, in Rostock, Germany, September 2006:

Noting that significant new European directives and programmes on marine and maritime matters have been launched or are currently under development;
Resolved to establish a working group on EU marine and maritime policies to monitor the impact on HOs with the following terms of reference:

1. *identify EU activities and processes on matters of interest to HOs;*
 2. *establish a common understanding of the issues when possible;*
 3. *consider and propose the ways and channels to interface with the EU activities and processes (mechanisms) through NSHC initiatives or through the IHO in general.*
- and the following rules of procedures:

1. *the working group will be chaired by France;*
2. *members of the NSHC are invited to appoint a contact person;*
3. *the working group will work mainly by correspondence and report on its findings at the next NSHC meeting.*

2. DISCUSSIONS

Since NSHC27, significant progress has been made with the active contributions provided by all NSHC appointed members.

EU activities which are of interest for HOs, and which may benefit from HOs contributions, have been identified: they are based on the list of actions depicted in the EU Maritime Blue Book (*An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union*).

A meeting took place in Brussels on 25 January 2008 basically to raise the awareness of the European Commission (EC) Maritime Task Force. A summary report was issued by the IHB through CL14/2008, inviting IHO MS to consider a MoU between the European Commission and the IHO.

In February, MS were also invited to consider the application for the EMODNet group of experts.

Experimentation is in progress with EMSA for the provision of WebMapServices derived from RENC ENC datasets.

An update on the progress of these actions will be provided at the Conference.

3. PROPOSALS

NSHC's members are invited:

- to continue their support in the activities of the NSHC EUM2WG;
- to consider the request made to the IHO by the head of the EC Maritime Task Force on 25 January 2008, on a common and non-ambiguous definition and calculation of the length of the coastline;

- to identify the ways and means to optimize the links with the EC under the auspices of the proposed MoU, in liaison with the other IHO EU MS and RHCs.