

## Introduction –

# The Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the IHO

## IHO Secretariat



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON ESTABLISHING A COOPERATION ON MARITIME AFFAIRS BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
ORGANISATION

The European Commission and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) hereafter referred to as the "Sides" desiring to establish a cooperative framework between the two Sides in the field of integrated approach to maritime affairs have decided to take measures to strengthen cooperation.

This cooperation shall be without prejudice to other agreements or arrangements which may exist between the EU and IHO.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework ensuring a continuing liaison between the two sides in the specific areas of common interest including surveillance activities, offshore renewable energy, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, marine observation and data



# Main Milestones

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- 2006 – EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG (a subgroup of NSHC)
- 2008 – Meeting with the Head of the EU Task Force (“Blue Book”)

IENWG-8, Brussels, Belgium, 27-28 February 2018





***The relationship between  
the European Union institutions  
and  
National Hydrographic Offices  
through the  
International Hydrographic Organisation***

# Meeting objectives

- ***To raise awareness on IHO capabilities, missions and responsibilities and existing networks***
  - ***To give an insight on IHO organisation and activities***
  - ***To provide an overview of IHO contribution to the establishment of the EU Maritime Integrated Policy***
  - ***To improve EU institutions/agencies-EC-IHO partnership***
  - ***To identify any actions that could benefit from initiatives of the French presidency of the EU Council***
- ***In summary: to demonstrate the ability of HOs to become key enablers in the development of EU maritime policies using the existing framework provided by IHO without duplication and making the best use of the most efficient resources***



# 1. HOs capabilities : *who are we?*

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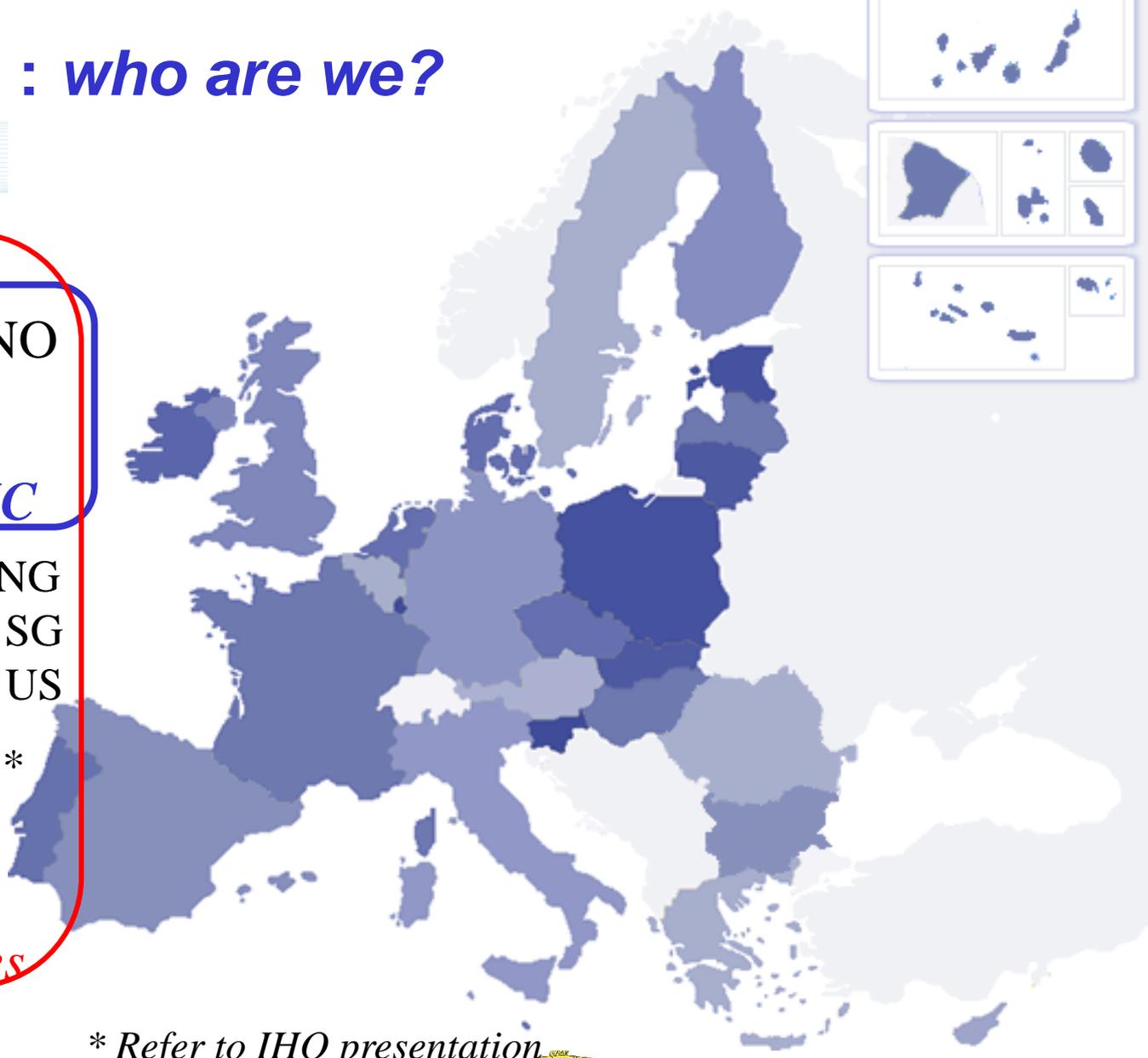
*NSHC*

BG CY EE ES  
FI GR IT LV  
MT PL PT RO  
SI

*EU HOs*

*IHO Member States*

JP NG  
RU SG  
CN US  
Etc.\*



*\* Refer to IHO presentation*



# 1. HOs capabilities: *what are they?*

*Responsibilities (varies from country to country):*

- ***Operation of hydrographic services (surveying, charting, tidal and water level forecasting, nautical warning services) as mandated under international law by the SOLAS Convention***
  - ***Includes electronic charting, marine GIS***
- ***Administration of national EEZ***
- ***Marine spatial planning***
- ***Marine meteorology (cooperation with WMO)***
- ***Oceanography, National Oceanographic Data Centre (cooperation with IOC)***
- ***Marine environmental monitoring***
- ***Aids to navigation (cooperation with IALA)***
- ***Search and Rescue, Coast Guard***
- ***Maritime security***
- ***Capacity building***

***Core competence of HOs is collecting data about the sea, and providing related data services to shipping (merchant and Navy) and all sorts of other clients, e.g. for coastal zone administration, commerce and marine industry***



# 1. HO capabilities: what are they?

*Infrastructure (assets):*

- ***Fleet of survey and research vessels***
- ***Large marine databases***
- ***Hydrographic schools and training institutions***
- ***Compliance with international standards (set by IHO)***
- ***Imbedded in the IHO global network of hydrographic government agencies***
- ***International distribution network for electronic navigational chart data (PRIMAR, IC-ENC)***
- ***Involvement in international marine monitoring programmes (Oslo-Paris, Helsinki Conventions)***

***→ HOs have an acknowledged involvement in policy making  
and a long operational experience***

- ***Poor visibility***
- ***Limited resources vs increasing commitments***
- ***Different economical (trading-fund vs govt funded) and organisation models (Navy, civilian institutes)***
- ***Poor track records in lobbying and capturing European fundings***





## Memorandum of understanding, April 2012, between the IHO and the European Commission



**Network of EU IHO Hydrographic Offices** have offered their support to DG Mare / Atlantic, Outermost Regions and Arctic in response to the call for tender on **Coastal Mapping No 2014/10**



# Main Milestones

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- 2006 – EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG (a subgroup of NSHC)
- 2008 – Meeting with the Head of the EU Task Force (“Blue Book”)
- 2012 – MoU EC – IHO
- 2013 – Establishment of the IENWG



# Outstanding achievements

- IHO (and EU IHO MS) profile raised at the appropriate level within the EC
- Coastal Mapping, contribution to EMODNet, EU Horizon 2020 (EfficienSea2, Atlantic Seabed Mapping...)

Standards & Publications x Downloads for IHO Men x Bathymetry | Central Port x EMODnet Bathymetry x

www.emodnet-bathymetry.eu

IHO SHPoint Calendar International Chart V Google Webmail IHO : Bien GEBCO Dictionnaires IHO GI Registry Meteo Voyages Medias Finances

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Developing and providing a harmonised Digital Terrain Model (DTM) for the European sea regions

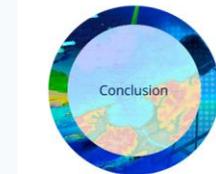
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COMPOSITE DTM

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*In conclusion, since an integrated maritime policy needs an integrated vision, and given coastal areas are a major factor for blue growths, but also highly sensitive from an environmental point of view, strong action must be taken to greatly improve knowledge of these areas.*

*For that reason, the coastal mapping project strongly recommends that a European Strategy with the above 3 axes and 3 pillars actions be implemented. For the sake of efficiency, the project team also recommends platform sharing and/or organising common campaigns for data acquisition and a systematic requirement that any EU funded project including data acquisition, must respect standards and ensure data capitalisation and promotion of good practice to maximize the benefits of community-sourced data.*



Consortium

worldline

www.coastal-mapping.eu

Hydrographic office: FRANCE - BELGIUM - GERMANY - GREECE - IRELAND - ITALY - LATVIA - NORWAY - PORTUGAL - SLOVENIA - SWEDEN

Regions: CFMB - Regione Lazio

Public Bodies: CPRA - PWS - GeoEcomar - DDM

IT company: Worldline

10 January 2017 @ Bonn

February 2018



# Global Initial Assessment (based on TORs, from IHO Secretariat's point of view)

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- Identify EU activities and processes on matters of interest to Hydrographic Offices (HOs) → **pretty good, could be improved**
- Establish a common understanding of the issues when possible → **to be improved**
- 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 → **to be improved**
- Facilitate common actions of HOs related to EU programmes → **very good**
- Liaise with relevant Hydrographic Services and Standards Committee (HSSC) WGs for technical matters (e.g. standardization) → **not really achieved/appropriate?**
- Advise IRCC on the impact of EU policies, activities and processes in the maritime domain on the IHO programme of work → **to be improved**



# Actions to be considered (from IHO Secretariat's point of view)

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- First of all, to consider reinvigorating the network, or supersede the network concept by a WG or any other option including discontinue activities (proposals to be made to IRCC)
- To collect national top priorities of the [EU] IHO Member States and compare these priorities against EC DG programmes (Research, Mare, CPRM...)
- To define top priorities and allocate ad hoc resources
- To improve information sharing and analysis of EU programmes and maritime policies among EU IHO MS (task to be handled on rotational basis for instance)
- To improve communication (upstream and downstream) and IENWG management, create an operational network for reacting to call for tenders
- To make proposals, if any, to amend the IHO Work Programme, Strategic Plan, etc.

