

**6th IRCC meeting  
Saint-Mandé, 19-20th May 2014**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	SHOM (France)
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This paper reports on the establishment of relationship between Hydrographic Offices of Member States of European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA) between themselves and with European Commission
<b>Related Documents:</b>	IRCC circular letter 01/2013, 13 November 2013 IRCC circular letter 01/2014, 24 January 2014

During a **meeting of North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC)**, in 2006, in Rostock, this commission established a Working Group on European Union Marine and Maritime Policy (EUM2P WG). France was chosen as chairman of this WG. Contacts, meetings and correspondence between representatives of European Commission, chairman of the WG and International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) resulted in a draft of a “Memorandum of Understanding on establishing a cooperation on maritime affairs between the European Commission and the International Hydrographic Organisation” (MoU). This MoU was signed by Admiral Alexandros Maratos and Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Maria Damanaki, in Monaco, during the International Hydrographic Conference, 23 April 2012.

Since that date, several meetings have taken place between the representatives of Hydrographic Offices of Member States of EU/EEA between themselves and with European Commission.

**First meeting** took place in Brussels, in the premises of European Commission, 10 October 2012. Representatives from IHB and of HOs of France, Germany, Sweden, Norway and United Kingdom, representatives from Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG Mare), DG mobility and transport (DG Move) and DG environment (DG Move) took part to this first meeting.

During this meeting, each side presented its policy. A consultation based on a Green Paper “Marine Knowledge 2020” was issued by the end of August. DG Mare presented its roadmap for the implementation of Marine Knowledge and for the flagship project “European Maritime Observation and Data network” EMODnet. HOs presented their missions and their competencies. They emphasized their specific responsibility for hydrographic knowledge and the liability they assume for the safety of navigation. This responsibility implies a specific competence in the long term and safe storage of large volumes of data. As the integrated maritime policy (IMP) is an opportunity for HOs to deliver services to the European Union, the tendencies toward free access in public sector information conflicts with the need for HOs to get some revenue from the deliverance and commercial reuse of the data they acquire and process.

**Second meeting** took place in Brussels, in the premises of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, 5 April 2013. Representatives from DG Mare and DG Env, representatives from

IHB and of HOs from France, Sweden, Norway, United Kingdom, Spain and Belgium took part to this meeting. France presented a roadmap to proposing programs meeting the needs common to the European waters. Implementation of IMP in European waters needs more or less same type of hydrographic knowledge regardless the Member State to which these waters belong. Building on joint programs to meet the needs of hydrographic knowledge allows to share experience, know-how and to be more cost-efficient. Two knowledge programs were proposed: a program of hydrographic knowledge for safety of navigation, “European Program of Hydrographic Knowledge 2020 (EPHK 2020)” and a “Joint European Program on Coastal Mapping (JECMaP)”. Besides, two applied research programs were proposed: a study on establishment of a common sea surface reference (Mean

Sea Level) within all European home waters and a study on resurvey strategies where sandy or muddy seafloor can move.

**Third meeting** took place 26 June 2013, in Paris (Saint-Mandé), in the premises of IGN (French land surveying and mapping agency) Meteo-France (French Meteorological Office and SHOM). Representative from DG Mare, representatives from Secretariat Général pour les Affaires Européennes (SGAE, French Secretariat for European Affairs), from IHB and of HOs from France, Sweden, Norway, United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium and Greece took part to this meeting. France, Sweden and Germany were tasked to make a specification for a study on JECMaP program.

A **first preliminary meeting** took place just before third IHO–EU meeting. Representatives from IHB and from HOs needed to meet together before to meet representative of DG Mare. Sweden had presented a paper to IRCC on establishing an IHO-EU network WG which could supersede the EUM2P WG. France was tasked to prepare draft Terms of Reference for this WG.

SHOM represented HOs to a **special meeting** organized by DG Mare in Brussels, 10 September 2013, on coastal mapping.

France, Sweden and Germany met in Brest 3 and 4 October 2013 to a **workshop** to sharing their experiences in bathymetric Lidar for coastal mapping. Representatives of other institutes, Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA), Italy and Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) Ireland took part to this workshop. It resulted in a submission paper on JECMaP which was sent to DG Mare, 18 October 2013.

**Fourth meeting** took place 24 October 2013, in Brussels, in the premises of Flemish Hydrography. Representative from DG Mare, representatives from IHB and of HOs from France, Sweden, Norway, United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium, Greece, Germany and the Netherlands took part to this meeting. Sweden presented the achievements of Baltic Sea Bathymetric Data Base. HOs of riparian states of Baltic Sea have gained experience in joint planning of hydrographic surveys. JECMaP was presented and received support from DG Mare and from HOs which did not part to its elaboration. HOs were tasked to describe more extensively the contents and results the program could deliver.

A **second preliminary meeting** took place just before fourth IHO–EU meeting. The steps for a EPHK 2020 were presented, 1: common harmonised reports on hydrographic knowledge; 2: common harmonised report on evaluation of requirements for navigation in European Waters; 3: joint programmes of surveys.

A **special meeting** on the IHO policy towards **EMODnet** took place 3 February 2014, in Paris (Saint-Mandé). Several HOs take part to the flagship project of DG Mare in Marine Knowledge, EMODnet, without having built a common policy towards this project. This meeting resulted in an IHO policy: 1/ The IHO considers the development of Emodnet as the best driver for Marine Knowledge 2020. 2/ The IHO is committed to support this programme in the long term. 3/ The IHO will provide sustainable operational solutions with appropriate accuracy and updating mechanisms through current IHO regional structures and approaches. 4/ The IHO strongly recommends the use of relevant international standards such as ISO, IHO and Inspire compatible standards within Emodnet. This policy has been presented by the representative of IHB to the inauguration meeting of permanent secretary of EMODnet, 19 February.

A **third preliminary meeting** took place 4 February 2014, in Paris (Saint-Mandé). Discussion took place on the composition of IHO-EU network WG. “Full member” will be the representatives of Regional Hydrographic Conferences, Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission, East Atlantic Hydrographic Commission, Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission, Nordic Hydrographic Commission, Hydrographic Commission, Norway, Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission.

**Fifth meeting** took place 19 February 2014, in Oostende, in Innovocean Center. Representatives from DG Mare, representatives from IHB and of HOs from France, Sweden, Norway, United Kingdom, Belgium, Greece, Germany and the Netherlands took part to this meeting. The paper describing JECMaP program should be sent to DG Mare by end of April.

**Next meeting** is planned in Amsterdam, 25 June 2014.