

**16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Mediterranean & Black Sea Hydrographic Commission  
(MBSHC)  
Odessa, Ukraine  
22- 24 September 2009**

**FINAL REPORT**

The 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC) was held at Odessa Hotel, Odessa in Ukraine, under the Chairmanship of Captain Rachid Essoussi (Tunisia). Thirteen Members were represented, Algeria (DZ), Croatia (HR), Cyprus (CY), France (FR), Greece (GR), Italy (IT), Romania (RO), Russia (RU), Spain (ES), Syria (SY), Tunisia (TN), Turkey (TU) and Ukraine (UA). Four Associate Members, Bulgaria (BG), Georgia (GE), Malta (MT) and United Kingdom (UK) and three Observers, International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB), PRIMAR and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Organization (IOC) were represented. The IHB was represented by VAdm Alexandros Maratos, the President of the Directing Committee of the IHB, and Captain Federico Bermejo, Professional Assistant (PA) and Secretary, CBSC. (List of participants is in Annex-1)

### **1. Chairman's Opening**

The Chairman welcomed the participants and congratulated UA on the arrangements for the meeting and for the previous evening's Ice Breaker. He reported that Egypt and Israel could not attend the Conference. (Full text of the speech is in Annex-2)

Dr. Sergei Symonenko (UA), Director, State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine, read a brief introduction. UA, as a Vice Chair, wished to yield becoming MBSHC chair at the end of this meeting, in favour of more experienced colleagues. (Full text of the speech is in Annex-3)

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda, Timetable and Documents**

Nothing significant to report. The Agenda was adopted. (See Annex-4)

### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman highlighted some successes in Capacity Building (CB);

- The CPRNW-organised MSI workshop in Cadiz, Spain in 2008 and GMDSS training,
- The Nippon Foundation funded Marine Cartography course in UK,
- The Nippon Foundation funded upcoming Cat B Marine Cartography course in Singapore and,
- The successful technical visits made by IT to Albania (AL) and MT, and by FR to RO and Lebanon (LB).

He encouraged applications for the course in Singapore and future Nippon Foundation funded CB courses. He referred to the Black and Azov Sea Working Group (BASWG) which had been reconvened under the chairmanship of TR and met twice since the last MBSHC Conference (see Agenda Item 10).

Regarding to safety of navigation, and referring to the 17<sup>th</sup> IHC and 4<sup>th</sup> EIHC resolutions on ENC coverage, he raised the issue of gaps in coverage; MBSHC States had to urgently identify shortages and remedy them. He also noted that the role of the

INT Chart Co-ordinator is vital; but difficulties had been experienced and FR had indicated that they wished to withdraw; this matter would be covered at Agenda Item 14. He encouraged updating of IHO C-55 and expressed his regrets that only five States in the region had updated. (Full text of the report is in Annex-5)

#### **4. Designation of Vice-Chair**

As UA wished to yield becoming vice chair of the meeting, GR and TR declared their nomination for vice chairmanship and hosting the next meeting. Chairman stressed the association between the Vice Chair role and hosting and proposed to discuss this issue under the agenda item 21.

FR referred to the MBSHC statutes, which call for the host to be selected at the end of meeting (Agenda Item 21) and to the 14<sup>th</sup> MBSHC decision that the host could be an Associate Member, which is beneficial for capacity building, and which dissociates the Vice Chair role and hosting. The Chair asked UA to retain the position of Vice Chair until the end of the meeting; since UA accepted to act as Vice Chair, this was agreed.

#### **5. Status of Actions from the Previous Meeting**

The action items of the 15<sup>th</sup> MBSHC Conference were reviewed by the Chairman. The majority of the actions from the previous meeting were completed or were covered elsewhere in the Agenda. The Chair noted that only 9 national reports had been received out of 25 (MBSHC 15-4). (Status of actions from 15<sup>th</sup> MBSHC Conference is in Annex-6)

#### **6. IHB Report**

IHB President, Vadm A. Maratos, thanked UA to host the Conference. He referred to 4<sup>th</sup> EIHC; mentioned the visiting ships and the industry exhibition and summarised the attendance and proceedings;

- The revised SPWG plan had been approved with risk management and performance measures introduced;
- A new wider definition of "Hydrography" had been approved;
- The Inland ENC Harmonization Group (IEHG) had concluded that this matter should not come under the objectives of the IHO; but RHCs can liaise with local bodies and decide how to handle this issue in their region;
- The Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure WG (MSDIWG) had drafted a publication and this subject should be a standing RHC agenda item;
- The status of ENC coverage and the resolutions on coverage, consistency and quality. MSs were asked by CL 35/2009 for a status report on ENC coverage. The letter was also sent to non-MS by IHB and via IMO; although there had not been a good response;
- The first meeting of the S-23 WG had been held and a fourth edition of IHO S-23 is to be prepared and reported to IHB by January 2011. FR will provide guidelines on the rules and procedures for toponymy;
- The first meeting of IRCC had been held, chaired by Gilles Bessero (FR);
- Referring to the restructuring of the IHO committees, which came into force by 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2009, CPRNW had been renamed WWNWS Sub-Committee under IRCC;
- On the status of approving the ratification of the amended IHO Convention, MBSHC was informed that 26 MS have approved; another 24 are needed for the amended Convention to come into effect. IHB has circulated a letter urging MS to accelerate their procedures of ratification so that the 2012 conference can be under the new structure. In MBSHC; DZ, CY, UK, FR, ES, GR, MA, TN and MC have ratified –

others were encouraged to expedite ratification and it was pointed out that assistance was available from IHB, if required;

IHB President mentioned HSSC, the replacement for CHRIS, which will meet in Singapore in October 2009; he urged MBSHC States to participate. Regarding to cooperation with other international bodies (IMO, IOC, IALA and WMO); IMO had resolved the change to SOLAS on ECDIS mandation commencing 2012 and a joint IHO/IMO/WMO MSI manual had been produced. Participation in the development of E-Navigation with IMO and IALA and continuation to work with IOC on GEBCO was stressed.

Although capacity building activities had been covered by the Chairman, IHB President highlighted the agreement with the Nippon Foundation for a five year programme covering 5 to 8 students; the 1<sup>st</sup> course is underway at UKHO; more than 50 applications were received and of the 6 successful candidates, one was from TR. States were encouraged to apply for future courses. (Details of IHB report is in Annex-7)

## **7. IHO WP - Programme 1 Element 1.1: Co-operation with Member States**

### **a. Bilateral arrangements within MBSHC**

No comments received from MBSHC States on this issue.

### **b. International Seapower Symposium**

IT reported on the 2008 symposium. 39 Navies had been represented; the key issues were dialogue and cooperation. As far as data and information are concerned, there was a move from "need-to-know" to "need-to-share".

President IHB commented that the scope of the meeting had moved beyond the Mediterranean to worldwide. He reported that the Chief of the Albanian Navy visited IHB in Jan 2009 for a briefing but he was unable to attend this meeting. President IHB has accepted an invitation from the Chief of the Italian Navy to a meeting in 2010, in preparation for the next symposium.

In discussion, it was noted that new hydrographic projects should be routed to the symposium via CBSC; commitment to sustained development was vital. If the symposium does become global it would be more appropriate for the IHB, rather than MBSHC, to be represented.

### **c. National Reports General Synthesis**

The Chairman commented that all the reports received satisfied the model set for this special purpose; outlining all activities of MSs very well. Making a few summary remarks he outlined co-operation and participation in international projects, progress on MSDI and hydrographic and cartographic activities. International ENC coverage by 2010 emphasized as a key issue. He stressed that some MS had expressed their incapability to meet this deadline, and encouraged MBSHC MSs to resolve this issue by cooperation in order to reflect back positively on the work of the Commission and that of the IHO as well.

## **8. IHO WP - Programme 1 Element 1.2: Co-operation with International Organisations**

### **a. Coordination of Sea Level Measurement and Prevention of Sea Level and Related Hazards**

Mr. Thorkild Aarup, representing IOC, gave a brief presentation on the sea level activities. The importance of HOs in this field was stressed, as they are the responsible organisations in many countries. After the Sumatra Tsunami (Indian Ocean) in 2004, IOC established Early Warning Systems (EWS) globally including for North East Atlantic, Mediterranean and Connected Seas Tsunami Warning System (NEAMTWS).

14% of about 1100 tsunamis since 1650 BC have been in the Mediterranean. A particular feature in the region is that travel times are very short (less than 1 hour). Several nations are setting up warning systems in various stages of development – Portugal, FR, IT, GR and TR. A seismic station network is in place but needs refining and gap filling. As regards sea level, a web site developed and maintained by the Flemish body VLIZ for IOC collects and displays real time data from about 40 stations in region. (see [www.ioc-sealevelmonitoring.org](http://www.ioc-sealevelmonitoring.org)). GR informed that they have a national early warning centre based on a seismic network and sea bottom pressure measurement; this was achieved by co-ordinating a number of national organisations. An exercise is planned for late November, IOC will be invited to monitor and observe. TR has actively supported the NEAMTWS and 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Intergovernmental Coordination Group/NEAMTWS will be held in İstanbul, 11-13 November 2009. It was also stressed that the Sea of Marmara is particularly vulnerable to tsunami.

Contributions to sea level measurements (RONIM Network-8 real time and 18 delayed mode sea level stations) and Litto 3D® programme-shallow water LIDAR bathymetry (down to 40m off Toulon) projects were presented by FR. FR also reported that a governmental decision was made to allocate €14M for the establishment of a national tsunami warning centre for the North-Eastern Atlantic and Western Mediterranean sea. This centre is supposed to cooperate with other institutes in the Western Mediterranean basin. The importance of real time sea level data was emphasised. The lead body in the development of this centre is the atomic energy agency (CEA). FR recommended data sharing, collection of real time data and the importance to raise these developments to politicians. FR suggested to conduct a gap analysis for North Africa where there may be deficiencies in real-time sea-level measurements. It also suggested to avoid duplication with other projects eg ESEAS and recommended a consistent approach with GEBCO mapping projects in shallow waters.

### **b. Status of Navigational Systems in the Mediterranean and Black Seas**

No comments received from participants.

### **c. Cooperation with the European Commission (EC)**

FR (Yves Guillam) made a brief presentation concerning the status of MoU between IHO and European Union (EU) and the developments. He summarised the meeting between North Sea Hydrographic Commission (NSHC) European Union Marine & Maritime Policy Working Group (EUMMPWG) and EU held in Jan 2008 to raise awareness of hydrography and HO capabilities;

- FR and Danish hydrographers are members of the European Marine Observations and Data Network (EMODNET) Expert Group and EMODNET has issued a call for tender for bathymetry.

- Committee on Hydrographic Requirements for Information Systems (CHRIS now HSSC) of IHO has initiated a study of coastal length as this was a particular issue raised by the EU.

- An EMODNET study had revealed that users were unhappy with the availability of bathymetric data.

- The EU aims are to reduce cost; increase downstream competition; and to protect the environment.

- The Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) is to write to the other DGs on the proposed MoU with IHO.

- As a matter of principle duplication of existing networks should be avoided and a coherent RHC position was needed.

- It was proposed that the NSHC EUMMWG should continue to act as the focal point with FR as coordinator, however, there is a need to enlarge participation as a number of other RHCs have EU MS and because EU projects are obviously not limited to the North Sea; it was agreed that MBSHC MS and Associate MS interested in participating should respond to FR by the end of November 2009 - to demonstrate to EU that EU HOs can organize themselves to meet EU requirements. The call for tender should be responded to by IHO.

President IHB stressed the need for better co-operation and thanked Yves Guillam (FR) for work done. He referred to the earlier discussions about the need for data to support environmental protection, safe navigation etc. IOC had resolved that GEBCO should prioritise high resolution coastal data; and that it should report to the next IOC council. It was noted that GEBCO is a "volunteering" activity. IHO CL 36/2006 invited MSs to provide shallow water bathy to GEBCO, with a software tool to extract data from ENC from User Bands 2 and 3. Some MS had responded, but the need remains. President IHB referred to the IHB paper, produced after the Indian Ocean tsunami, on tsunami response. It recommended MSs and RHCs should prepare actions plans for future disasters; to allow immediate assessment of damage, effect on shipping, and to inform shipping; and then to determine actions required to recover damage. A focal point is needed, either Hydrographer or Head of the national Maritime Administration. Chair of RHCs should ensure the RHC agenda includes this item so that a plan is developed, and that table top exercises are conducted. He noted the SAIHC decision to refer to IRCC to produce a template plan and suggested MBSHC should do the same.

## **9. IHO WP - Programme 1 Element 1.3: Co-operation with non Member States**

The Chairman reported that invitations to the 16<sup>th</sup> MBSHC Conference had been sent to Libya and Lebanon, from which there was no response received.

President IHB referred to other nations where participation was difficult, such as Albania. He suggested the proposed technical visits to Libya and Lebanon (see Agenda Item 11), which might encourage future participation.

## **10. IHO WP - Programme 2 Element 2.1: Capacity Building Management**

### **a. Capacity Building Sub Committee Meeting – Decisions of 7<sup>th</sup> CBSC Affecting MBSHC**

CB Sub Committee Secretary Capt. Federico Bermejo explained that CB could be achieved bilaterally, regionally or via CBSC. He noted that CBSC had received no bids from MBSHC and also reminded CBSC documents on the IHO website which sets out the application procedure, in general;

- RHC Chair's responsibility is to receive bids and seek a regional solution or to pass to CBSC.
- Deadline for applications to CSBC is April.
- CBSC can fund technical assistance, training, finance to start up projects; no fund for equipment purchase.
- It will fund travel to courses and technical meetings, and the provision of courses in region.

He noted that the most frequent requests are for training and reminded the free training offered by India, national courses provided via bilateral arrangements, and courses through specific assistance projects e.g. Nippon Foundation. Such opportunities were promoted by IHO CLs, along with notification of a variety of short courses and seminars. The Chair commented that a reminder of CBSC procedures had been circulated to MBSHC members. CBSC Secretary informed that other RHCs have created a CB working group to coordinate submissions and suggested MBSHC to establish CBWG.

In response to a question from IOC, CBSC Secretary explained that bids are prioritised and not divided across RHCs. Some RHCs may have two or three projects running simultaneously, while other RHCs may have none. Projects tend not to be big; larger projects are referred to funding agencies and help can be provided in preparing bids for such projects.

In response to question from TR, IHB President explained that the International Maritime Safety, Security and Environment Academy (IMSSEA) in Genoa (successor to the International Maritime Academy in Trieste) is only providing short IMO courses now. He reported that representatives of the new academy had visited IHB and that he had attended the opening ceremony of the new facility. Hydrographic or cartographic training may be offered in the future.

#### **b. Status of the WG on the Safety of Navigation in the Black and Azov Seas (BASWG)**

TR (Radm Mustafa İpteş, BASWG Chair) reported on the two meetings, held since 15<sup>th</sup> MBSHC, and highlighted followings;

- WG ToRs had been finalised for endorsement at MBSHC.
- Regarding to the bilateral agreements; UA laws do not allow payment of royalties and it was proposed that WG members would not pay each other royalties for paper charts. Bilateral arrangements between the WG members should be modelled on the UA/RU template, which had been circulated.
  - Bilateral visits had improved relationships in region.
  - The INT paper chart scheme had been discussed. Changes and amendments for S-11 had been prepared but, since the MEDINTCHART activities had been suspended, those changes had not been included in to the catalogue.
    - ENC coverage has gaps in the Black Sea; BG and RO planning to fill the gaps, but the gaps in GE waters will not be covered by 2010.
    - TR had proposed a new ENC scheme, with final details to be decided.
    - The proposal to set up a sub area of NAVAREA 3, coordinated by TR, is still under progress.
    - Next meeting of BASWG will be held in May 2010 in Istanbul. Future meetings will be convened every two years, between MBSHC Conferences.

The agreed BASWG ToR and RoP was presented and endorsed unanimously by the MBSHC. (ToR and RoP of BASWG is in Annex-8)

### **c. Bilateral and Multinational Projects – Proposals for Further Co-operation**

Although CBSC Secretary suggested that those National Reports, which had been submitted, included a number of projects that could be appropriate for submission to CBSC, no project was proposed.

## **11. IHO WP - Programme 2 Element 2.2: Capacity Building Assessment**

### **a. Hydrographic Survey Status in the MBSHC Area - C-55 Review**

ES referred to the graphic which had been posted on MBSHC section of the IHO website before the meeting. It highlighted the lack of adequate bathymetric data in the southern Mediterranean. Despite Decision MBSHC 15-3, requiring updates to be submitted to ES annually, nothing had been received by the 1<sup>st</sup> February deadline and only a few MSs had updated before this meeting. ES asked if the graphic was still required and, if so, suggested graphic updates should be posted on the C-55 section of the IHO website for ES to access. GR suggested the graphic should highlight recent surveys, to demonstrate progress and highlight gaps in data required for tsunami risk areas. IOC suggested this should be extended to include areas of potential coastal inundation and hazards.

It was agreed that the graphic should be continued. The Chairman stressed the need for updates to be provided, preferably via the IHO website as suggested by ES.

### **b. Results of Technical Visits**

There had been technical visits to RO, AL, LB and MT made by IT, FR and IHB representatives since the last MBSHC Conference:

FR reported on their visit to RO. Two FR HO representatives and one IHB representative visited Bucharest, for discussions with various central organisations and technical institutions, and Constanza, to the RO HO, naval and port authorities. The heavy shipping traffic and the sensitive area of the Danube delta which present particular challenges were reported.

FR reported on their visit to LB. Representatives had visited Beirut for discussions with central bodies, ministries, harbour master, Lebanese Shipowners' Association and the delegation of EC to the Republic of Lebanon. The harbour master is using IHO M-2 (National Maritime Policies and Hydrographic Services) to demonstrate strategy. A visit was made to Tripoli to meet the harbour master. There is local technical capability e.g. geophysics and land mapping, and their navy is interested. There are no recent surveys in the sea areas <200m, but a lot of port development. ENC coverage is produced by FR from their paper charts which are based on old surveys. There is a need to create a National Hydrographic Committee (NHC), hydrographic surveys for depth <200m, to reinforce the bilateral with France and need financing through the IHO/CBSC.

IT reported on their visit to the AL hydrographic unit where capability is limited but they aim to expand. The AL military mapping authority published 3 charts based on the mid 1990s singlebeam US surveys. Between 1998 and 2004, GR, IT and UK completed multibeam surveys under the Seapower Project but there is a lack of data in the littoral zone. AL had asked for charts or for reprinting to print IT, GR and GB charts. Survey capability equipment is needed and, in due course, for cartography; they need training and any assistance would be appreciated.

IT reported on their visit to MT. The Malta Maritime Authority (MMA) provides UKHO with updates to charts. There is a need for increased survey capability and resurveys up to 12 miles. MT does not have funds or capability. IT has recommended MMA seek to amend legislation to establish the duties of the MMA in discharging SOLAS responsibilities. MT should request support from IHO to become self sufficient in chart and publication production.

The Chair observed that all the countries visited need help but no submissions had been made to CBSC. MT explained that, as MMA is currently undergoing a top management re-organisation, they did not apply for CBSC support, but MT had applied for UKHO training but were unsuccessful.

IOC representative enquired how the reports are followed up when some of the recommendations such as those in the MT report are beyond CBSC's remit. He commented that IOC plan to visit LB to discuss tsunami related issues and suggested there could be an opportunity for IOC to co-operate in these technical visits.

President IHB emphasised the need for action following these visits and recommended MBSHC should forward the reports to CBSC with some recommendations for action.

### **c. Application of CBSC Procedures for Capacity Building Assessment and Submission of Development Projects in the Area for Financial Support from CBSC or Other Sources**

The Chairman referred to the proposal for technical visits to SY, Libya and Israel. FR proposal to visit SY was accepted. TR was also volunteer to visit SY. IOC expressed interest in participating as an observer, subject to management approval. IT offered to visit Libya and Israel.

CBSC Secretary repeated his suggestion for establishing an ad hoc WG in order to create follow up procedure of the visits and expressed willingness to participate. IT, MT, FR, and TR volunteered. FR referred to the need for MBSHC to decide a procedure for progressing CB in the region, noting that all submissions to CBSC must be referred via an RHC. Follow up from technical visits may take different routes. Members should decide if they need RHC support, while the responsibility is on those conducting visits to non-MS, to follow up and report back to MBSHC. The Chairman invited FR to chair the ad hoc WG and provide a brief paper on how it might work. See Item 12.b for outcome of the WG meeting.

## **12. IHO WP - Programme 2 Element 2.3: Capacity Building Provision**

### **a. Definition of Candidate Items for Submission to the IHO CBSC**

Nothing to report

### **b. Scheduling and Execution of Initiative Directed to the Provision of General Support, Training and Education**

FR (Jean-Christophe Long) reported on the ad hoc WG meeting. Having examined the reports of the visits to RO, AL, LB and MT, CBSC support should be requested for:

- RO - support to NHC seminar in 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2010. Training in ENC and surveying.
- AL - Training. IT provided training for 2 officers. 8 more places required. Training to be conducted in Italian;
- LB - NHC seminar in 2<sup>nd</sup> half 2010;

- MT - Extend surveying capabilities into territorial seas and training for 2 people on surveys and managing ENC;

FR referred to a number of States in the region that are not active in IHO and MBSHC and enquired how IHO could help them engage. IOC mentioned a joint IHO/IMO letter sent to Egypt and Libya to encourage participation and mentioning the value of co-operation. Technical visits in 2010 would be conducted as previously agreed to SY, Libya and Israel. SY confirmed that technical visit is needed.

### **13. IHO WP - Programme 3 Element 3.3: Nautical Cartography**

#### **a. MEDINTCHART Status**

FR (Gilles Bessero) stated that the acting MEDINTCHART Coordinator (Yves Guillaum) would provide a factual report of progress since 15<sup>th</sup> MBSHC in 2007, which would start with ENC as the stakes are highest due to ECDIS mandation commencing 2012 and e-Navigation. SHOM had tried its best in the interests of mariners but its endeavours were unfruitful so it would not continue as INT Co-ordinator. If no State was prepared to take over then MBSHC would need to consider alternatives.

MEDINTCHART Coordinator presented a review of progress on ENCs since 15<sup>th</sup> MBSHC. He referred to the various IHO and IMO resolutions which all place burdens on States to ensure adequate, consistent ENC coverage and reporting to RHCs, commenting that 'adequate' means equivalent to best available paper charts. In region F there are gaps and overlaps and underlying survey deficiencies. The role of the regional INT chart coordinators in facilitating progress is defined in the draft Generic ToR/RoP for Regional Charting Groups (RCG), which had been prepared by the IHO Chart Specification and Paper Chart Working Group (CSPCWG), for submission at the first IHO Hydrographic Standards and Services Committee (HSSC) meeting in November 2009.

Some progress has been made in medium and large scale ENC coverage which is now reasonable, though there is more to do. However, there has been little or no progress on the 15<sup>th</sup> MBSHC decisions and recommendations relating to the smaller scale ENCs; many issues remain. IHO has no means to force MSs to comply, INT Chart Co-ordinators cannot act as referee.

MEDINTCHART Coordinator then presented a review of progress with INT paper charting since 15<sup>th</sup> MBSHC. Slow progress was being made; 67% of the agreed scheme had been published and various issues remained. The technical meeting intended in September 2008 to address the Aegean issues had been cancelled due to non-attendance of one of relevant parties (GR), who did not agree with the agenda of the meeting, and FR had announced that it suspended its activities and then resigned as Coordinator. In response to a MBSHC Chair's request, FR had finally agreed to continue with routine MEDINTCHART business until MBSHC 16, including drafting a revised version of the MEDINTCHART Catalogue but had not released it. Various proposals for changes to the MEDINTCHART scheme had been submitted by the MSs and these should be taken forward by new Coordinator in accordance with IHO S-11 and the draft Generic ToR/RoP for RCGs (when approved by HSSC1).

#### **b. MEDINTCHART Co-ordinator Selection**

The Chairman stressed good co-operation between MSs was essential to resolve the gaps, overlaps and other issues which exist and it was important to abide by IHO guidelines. MBSHC is a technical body and the issues are technical and the historical and political issues cannot be solved by MBSHC. Bilateral discussions have been

successful in resolving some issues, and this experience could assist the resolution of current disputes.

The Chair thanked SHOM acting on behalf of the IHO for excellent work as MEDINTCHART Co-ordinator. He proposed FR should continue on condition that bilateral issues are solved bilaterally, and that MBSHC give a clear mandate to the Co-ordinator so that it the Coordinator can operate under the entire trust of MSs. MSs expressed their support.

FR referred to the draft Generic ToR/RoP for RCGs; drew attention to the technical remit and the fact that membership of the RCGs would be limited to charting representatives of HOs. All former decisions can be revisited if appropriate reasons are provided. There must be agreement that the RCG is a technical body and its chair represents the IHO, not its own State. Subject to agreeing rules of procedure and the government's approval, FR agreed to continue as Coordinator.

**c. Progress in National ENC Production – Specific Problems that MS Face for Implementing the Production and Distribution of ENCs Before 2010 – Establishment of ENC Production Boundaries (Report by MS, Report by PRIMAR)**

TR gave a brief presentation on the ENC production in the Aegean Sea. TR expressed reservations about GR coverage of the Aegean Sea up to 3 miles of TR's waters where cartographic responsibilities have not been agreed, and that coverage is not comply with the IHO rules and principles and the relevant decisions taken by MBSHC. TR proposed technical meeting(s) organized by the MEDINTCHART Coordinator to address this issue. GR noted that the Greek ENCs cover the Greek territorial waters and international waters up to the territorial waters of TR, where are clipped according to the 'no data limit' concept, a fact that fully complies with the relevant guidelines of the IHO. There was wide-ranging discussion of the INT chart and ENC issues in the MBSHC region.

President IHB reminded delegates the IHO CL 35/09, concerning ENC status, but some MS had not replied. He requested a reply from RU and, noting there had been no response for Gaza, asked UK if they had any information. He is awaiting clarification from FR on Lebanon.

PRIMAR gave a presentation covering the WEND principles and an overview of the PRIMAR operation.

After re-election of FR, as a MEDINTCHART Coordinator, the following decisions were taken on MEDINTCHART issues:

- To convene a technical meeting in February-March 2010 in Paris organized by SHOM to discuss/solve only technical issues (See Decision 13 of MBSHC-16 in Annex-9);
- The draft new edition of MEDINTCHART Catalogue will be issued by the Coordinator by 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010;
- Participation in the technical meeting will be open to IHO MBSHC MSs, CSPCWG Chair, IHB and MEDINTCHART Coordinator;
- Production INT 3706, 3710, 3712 and 3716, new edition of MEDINTCHART Catalogue, the draft of which will be issued by 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2010 and ENC issues (scheme, coverage, gap, overlap and requirements for adequate surveys) will be discussed during the meeting;
- No formal agenda will be issued prior to this meeting (correspondence by email only)

- All draft proposals made at the technical meeting will be submitted for approval by correspondence to MBSHC MSs;
- Consensus is required prior implementation of any decisions.

**d. Development of a MBSHC ENC Scheme – VRENC situation (Report by Italy).**

To allow IT to convene a meeting of interested parties at the end of the second day, this item was deferred until the last day (Day 3).

IT outlined the three stages which had been completed towards a regional VRENC:

- Training supplied by International Maritime Academy (IMA) and IT through projects such as the North Adriatic Pilot project (survey and ENC production);
- Euro Mediterranean Information Society (EUMEDIS) funded MEDCHARTNET project provided equipment for ENC production by 2005;
- ENC production and distribution started in 2004. The first ENC was captured from paper charts. IT HO established a QA section to validate and verify ENC from contributing nations, but have not received any cells.

The situation has changed, now. IMA was closed, EUMEDIS is completed and the most of the countries have made other arrangements for the distribution of their ENC. IT had asked the participants if the project should continue but opinion was divided. IT will contact all participants to find out their intention; if they want to continue, then they should suggest how to modernise the project.

**e. Necessary Changes and Amendments to Part B (Region F – Mediterranean and Black Seas) of the IHO S-11 (former IHO M-11)**

There was disagreement concerning the Region F content of S-11. There was also disagreement about the status of the former three draft editions of the MEDINTCHART catalogue issued since 2002. GR stated that other three catalogues have been issued since March 2002 (in August 2004, in June 2006 and in May 2007) and all have official status, since they have never characterized as draft editions. It was agreed that the issue should be considered at the proposed technical meeting. Any new proposals, which concern previous decisions, should only be considered if they are supported by technical reasons.

**14. IHO WP - Programme 3 Element 3.4: Marine Safety Information**

**a. Implementation of GMDSS in the MBS (Report by NAVAREA-III Coordinator)**

ES (NAVAREA-III Coordinator) reported that, within the NAVAREA III, there are 24 operational NAVTEX stations broadcasting in 518KHz (International NAVTEX Service Frequency). 18 of these stations are in the Mediterranean Sea and 6 in the Black Sea.

**b. MSI in NAVAREA-III Area (Report by NAVAREA-III Coordinator)**

ES (NAVAREA-III Coordinator) reported that Radio Navigational Warnings within NAVAREA-III region are sent from the Spanish Hydrographic Institute to Burum Land Earth Station, in the Netherlands, using a TCP/IP (Internet) connection and a Telnet Terminal. From Burum the messages are sent to AOR-E SafetyNet Satellite for broadcasting over the whole region. 556 NAVAREA Warnings were broadcast during the period of time covered by this report. Meteorological information is submitted by METAREA III Coordinator (GR).

**c. Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings within the NAVAREA-III – Status of NAVTEX Service (Report by NAVAREA-III Coordinator)**

ES (NAVAREA-III Co-ordinator) reported that the relocated IT NAVTEX stations should be operational in 2010. The new station in TN has completed transmission trials and Libya is working to install a new NAVTEX station in Surt (Gulf of Sirte) and should commence operation in 2010.

**d. Implementation of New NAV Sub- area in the Black and Caspian Seas**

ES (NAVAREA-III Coordinator) reported that agreement on the proposed sub-area had not been reached at BASWG meetings. TR had undertaken to provide more details to the neighbouring States. In the Caspian Sea, Iran and RU wish to establish a sub-area and Iran is willing to be coordinator. It was recommended at the last IMO COMSAR that, although SOLAS does not apply to the Caspian, a sub-area could be established if the littoral States agree. Iran will table this item at the 2010 meeting of Caspian Sea littoral States.

**15. IHO WP - Programme 3 Element 3.5: Data for Geomatics Application**

**a. Status of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean (IBCM) and Other Relevant Issues**

The Chairman noted that Dr John Hall (IBCM) was unable to attend but had provided a summary of IBCM activities in the National Report of Israel.

**b. Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure in the MBSHC – Reaction to the Technical Resolution Proposed by the MSDIWG during the 4<sup>th</sup> EIHC**

The Chairman reminded the results of decision 13 of the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference and acknowledged the important role in MSDI for HOs. He additionally pointed that national reports to RHCs are too infrequent and suggested to fix a date by which Member States are encouraged to submit any relevant information about the situation of MSDI progress in their countries.

**16. IHO WP - Programme 5: General Organizational Development**

**a. Procedure for MBSHC to Designate Their Representative to Council (Report by Italy).**

IT had circulated a draft. It is expected that 3 MBSHC Members will be on the Council through their hydrographic interest, so MBSHC will probably have 3 elected representatives to the Council.

There was discussion on what should happen in the event of there being insufficient volunteers, and the practicality of requiring a MS to attend. IT will re-circulate the draft for comment.

**b. Status of the Ratification of the New Convention (Report by Italy)**

IT had not received any communication from any MBSHC MSs. IHB President had already summarised the situation (Agenda Item 6). The Italian Parliament had ratified in May, but had not yet communicated to MC. IT will investigate this issue and seek updates from MS every three months.

## **17. Discussions of Key Points Arising from National Reports and Already not Dealt With**

UK highlighted the Capacity Building posts and referred to the contact details set out in the UK National Report. No other comments.

## **18. Reports from and to adjacent Hydrographic Commissions**

No contributions. FR noted that Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) recommended that Chairs of adjacent RHCs should be invited to MBSHC. The meeting reports from IRCC sub-bodies, such as RHCs, should highlight the items referred to IRCC.

## **19. Any Other Business**

IT stated that they strongly support GEBCO, and asked other States to do so. IXSEA presented on their new generation side scan sonar SHADOWS.

## **20. Decisions Resolutions and Recommendations**

See Annex-9 for final List of Decisions and Recommendations, also available on MBSHC section of IHO website.

## **21. Date and Place of the Next MBSHC Conference**

GR proposal to host the next Conference in Athens, was accepted. The date will be specified later. Regarding UA proposal for not assuming the next chairmanship, TR volunteered to be MBSHC Chair until the end of next Conference in 2011, and it was accepted unanimously by the participants.

## **22. Closing**

President IHB expressed his thanks again to UA for hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> MBSHC and Captain Rachid Essoussi, the outgoing Chairman, for his excellent chairmanship. He congratulated Radm Mustafa İpteş, the new Chairman, on his new appointment.

Radm Mustafa İpteş (TR), as a new Chair, thanked Captain Rachid Essoussi and looked forward to his contributions as a former Chair. He congratulated UA for the excellent conference and social activities. He thanked FR for their efforts as MEDINTCHART Co-ordinator and expressed his hope for progress and thanked GR for hosting the next meeting. He undertook to take a co-operative approach and was optimistic about the next two years.

- Annex-1 (List of participants)
- Annex-2 (Chairman's Opening Speech)
- Annex-3 (Welcome Speech of UA)
- Annex-4 (Agenda)
- Annex-5 (Chairman's Report)
- Annex-6 (Status of Actions)
- Annex-7 (IHB report)
- Annex-8 (ToR and RoP of BASWG)
- Annex-9 (Decisions and Recommendations)

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Odessa, Ukraine  
22- 24 September 2009**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	Mohamed	Mouloudj	Head of Hydrographic Service of Navy Forces	Hydrographic Service of Navy Forces	ALGERIA
2	Tayeb	Haifi	Head of Nautical Information Office		
3	Zvonko	Gržetić	Director	Hydrographic Institute of the Republic of Croatia	CROATIA
4	Željko	Bradarić	Assistant Director		
5	Christos	Zenonos	Chief Cartographer / Hydrographer	Department of Lands and Surveys	CYPRUS
6	Gilles	Bessero	Chief Executive Officer	French Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service (SHOM)	FRANCE
7	Yves	Guillam	Head of Policy, Plans and External Relations		
8	Jean-Christophe	Long	Policy, Plans and External Relations		
9	Alexis	Willer	French Defence Attache	Embassy of French Republic in Ukraine	
10	Demetrios	Paliatsos	Director	Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service	GREECE
11	Ioannis	Papaioannou	Head of Geospatial Policy Office		
12	Paolo	Lusiani	Head of External Relationship Department	Italian Hydrographic Institute	ITALY
13	Roberto	Cervino	Head of Survey & Production Department		
14	Alessandro	Nobili	Head of Cartographic Office		
15	Gheorghe	Staicu	Deputy Chief	Maritime Hydrographic Directorate	ROMANIA

No	Name	Surname	Position	Organization	Country
16	Vadim	Sobolev	Chief of International Section	Department of Navigation and Oceanography	RUSSIA
17	Sergey	Travin	Chief of Hydrographic Repair Plant		
18	Yuriy	Rozhkov			
19	Sergey	Kozlov	Chief	Department of Navigation and Oceanography	
20	Francisco J.	Pérez Carrillo de Albornoz	Director	Instituto Hidrográfico de la Marina	SPAIN
21	Ángel	Chans Ferreiro	Vice Director		
22	Ghefar	Barakat	Head of Syrian Hydrographic Office	General Directorate of Syrian Ports	SYRIA
23	Mazen	Al Khateb	Director of Lawful Division		
24	Rachid	Essoussi	Director, MBSHC Chairman	Tunisian Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Center	TUNISIA
25	Haythem	Kheriji	Head of International Cooperation Section		
26	Karim	Taga	Head of Technical Division		
27	Mustafa	İpteş	Director, (BASWG Chairman)	Turkish Navy – Office of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography (TN-ONHO)	TURKEY
28	Bülent	Gürses	Head of Charting Division		
29	Eşref	Günsay	Head of ENC Production		
30	Sergii	Symonenko	Director	State Hydrographic Service	UKRAINE
31	Mykola	Golodov	Deputy Director		
32	Oleksandr	Borys	Head of Charting		
33	Oleg	Marchenko	Head of Nautical Charts and Special Publications		
34	Alla	Miagkova (Mrs.)	Head of International Relations		
35	Yuriy	Smirnov	Head of Hydrographic Section		
36	Oleg	Karbivnychy	Senior Specialist of Hydrographic Section		

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
37	Kalushko	Ganev	Deputy Head	Navy Hydrographic Service	BULGARIA
38	Valiko	Patsia	Engineer of Hydrographic Researches	State Hydrographic Service of Georgia	GEORGIA
39	Joseph	Bianco	Hydrographer	Malta Maritime Authority	MALTA
40	Paul	Canham	Head of International Partnering (Europe)	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office	UNITED KINGDOM
41	Anne	Kearle	Head of Regional Team 3A		
42	Alexandros	Maratos	President	International Hydrographic Bureau	
43	Federico	Bermejo	Professional Assistant		
44	Thorkild	Aarup	Senior Programme Specialist	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO	
45	Sachchidanand	Sharma	PRIMAR RENC Manager	PRIMAR, Norwegian Hydrographic Service	

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**CHAIRMAN'S OPENING SPEECH**

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues,

It is a great honor for me to chair this Sixteenth Meeting of the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission.

I would like first of all to thank the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine for hosting this meeting. On behalf of all the distinguished delegations who are attending this meeting, please accept my congratulations and my appreciation for the excellent work in the preparation of the meeting sessions.

I would also like to welcome all the delegations who are present here today and in particular the President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau, Vice Admiral Maratos, whose advice and expertise will help us very much during our discussions. Unfortunately, I have received the apologies of Egypt and Israel who will not be able to attend this meeting due to other simultaneous activities, and who had the courtesy of letting me know in advance.

Personally, presiding this complex commission has been quite challenging for me, but at the same time I had a great opportunity to witness more closely the developing interest and weight members of this commission are paying to hydrography and safety to navigation. Hence, I strongly encourage everybody to participate actively in the discussions along these three working days, taking advantage of the fair spirit of cooperation that is always present among the members of this regional commission, in order to further improve the work of the commission and the work of the IHO.

I am pretty sure that this meeting would be a successful continuity of all previous ones.

Before concluding, let me tell you that, regretfully, we won't have French translation and no recording equipment, therefore I would ask all delegates, please to speak in loud and slow way in order to facilitate the job of the people in charge of taking notes for the minutes.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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**DR. SERGEI SYMONENKO'S WELCOME SPEECH**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine is happy to meet all of you in Odesa. This is a great honor for us to host the 16-th Conference of the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission of the International Hydrographic Organization and render to it an organizational support.

We are very pleased to welcome in Ukraine the President of the International Hydrographic Organization Vice-Admiral Alexandros MARATOS and the Chairman of the MBSHC Captain Rachid ESSOUSSI.

Before official opening of the Conference I would like to say several words about the latest achievements and successes of the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine.

Annually we perform hydrographic surveys in ports, harbors, sea channels and areas with heavy traffic for the purpose of production and correction of navigational charts in compliance with recommendations and standards of International Hydrographic Organization. This year we have completed creation of national portfolio of nautical navigational charts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov in WGS-84.

Currently the SHS has also been performing hydrographic surveys of Ukrainian inland waterways. On their basis it was published an atlas of navigational charts of the Danube River and 3 atlases of navigational charts of the Dnipro River. Next year it is expected the completion of the Dnipro River surveying. It should be noted, that all surveys are carried out according to the IHO S-44 standard.

In 2009 in collaboration with Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences the SHS has issued an Oceanographic Atlas of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov which is the first publication of such type and where the results of oceanographic researches starting with 1896 were used.

In the framework of its functioning in capacity of a national lighthouse authority State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine has set up batch production of plastic buoys and light-optical equipment based on light emitting modules, and implemented the wide use of alternative energy sources. In addition, we have created the monitoring system intended for control of the aids to navigation availability. More detailed information, as well as samples of our charts and publications you can find on the display boards.

Vessels and ships of all types, which we can see today in Odessa and in ports and harbours all over the world, use the results of efforts made by Hydrographic Services of all countries. This Conference is another step to improvement of their activities.

It is an honour and great pleasure for Ukraine to host the 16-th MBSHC Conference. This event is a good occasion for all of us to present our successes and achievements,

as well as to share any concerns in relation to our common problems. In spite of this, we must state the fact, that due to its comparatively recent establishment the SHS does not have enough experience in order to chair the Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission. However, we do not exclude such possibility in the future. In this connection we kindly ask the Chairman to release Ukraine from this responsibility in favour of more experienced and competent Member State.

Thank you for your attention and let me yield the floor to the Chairman of the MBSHC Captain Rachid ESSOUSSI.

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**AGENDA**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING. WORKING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
4. DESIGNATION OF THE VICE – CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING
5. STATUS OF THE ACTION LIST FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING
6. IHB REPORT ON STATUS OF THE IHO WORKING PROGRAM
7. IHO WP – PROGRAM 1 – ELEMENT 1.1 – COOPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES
  - a. Status of bilateral arrangements between the MBSHC members (Member States)
  - b. International Sea power Symposium (Italy)
  - c. National Reports General Synthesis
8. IHO WP – PROGRAM 1 – ELEMENT 1.2 – COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
  - a. Coordination of sea level measurement and prevention of tsunami and sea level related hazards (report by IOC, Member States)

Creation of national tsunami warning center with regional vocation for the North eastern Atlantic and occidental Mediterranean Sea (report by France)
  - b. Status of navigational systems in the Mediterranean and Black Seas (report by IALA and others)
  - c. Cooperation with European Commission: European Union Work Group of the North Sea Hydrographic commission (Report by France)
9. IHO WP – PROGRAM 1 – ELEMENT 1.3 – COOPERATION WITH NON MEMBER STATES
  - a. Invitation to Libya
  - b. Invitation to Lebanon

10. IHO WP – PROGRAM 2– ELEMENT 2.1 – CAPACITY BUILDING MANAGEMENT

a. CBSC meeting – decisions affecting MBSHC (report by IHB)

b. Status of the working group for the safety of navigation in the Black Sea BASWG (report by Turkey)

Approval of the BASWG Status, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

c. Bilateral and multilateral projects – proposals for further cooperation

11. IHO WP – PROGRAM 2 – ELEMENT 2.2 – CAPACITY BUILDING ASSESSMENT

a. Hydrographic survey status in the MBSHC area – S55 review (report by Spain)

b. Results of technical visits (report by France, Italy and visited states)

c. Application of CBSC procedures for capacity building assessment and submission of development projects in the area for financial support from CBSC or other sources.

12. IHO WP – PROGRAM 2 – ELEMENT 2.3 – CAPACITY BUILDING PROVISION

a. Definition of candidate items for submission to the IHO CBSC.

b. Scheduling and execution of initiative directed to the provision of general support, training and education

13. IHO WP – PROGRAM 3 – ELEMENT 3.3 – NAUTICAL CARTOGRAPHY

a. MEDINTCHART status (report by France)

b. MEDINTCHART coordinator election

c. Progress in national ENC production – Specific problems that MS face for implementing the production and distribution of ENCs before 2010 – establishment of ENC production boundaries (report by MS, report by Primar)

d. Development of an MBSHC ENC scheme – V-RENC situation (report by Italy)

e. Necessary changes and amendments to part B (Region F – Mediterranean and Black Seas) of the IHO S-11 (former IHO M-11)

14. IHO WP – PROGRAM 3 – ELEMENT 3.4 – MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION

a. Implementation of GMDSS in the MBS (report by Navarea III Coordinator)

b. MSI in Navarea III area (report by Navarea III Coordinator)

c. Promulgation of Radio navigational warnings within the Navarea III area – Status of Navtex Service (report by Navarea III Coordinator)

d. Implementation of new Nav sub area in the Black and Caspian Seas (report by Navarea III Coordinator).

15. IHO WP – PROGRAM 3 – ELEMENT 3.5 –DATA FOR GEOMATICS APPLICATION

a. Status of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean IBCM and other relevant issues (report by Israel)

b. Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure in the MBSHC – Reaction to the technical resolution proposed by the MSDIWG during the 4 th EIHC

16. IHO WP – PROGRAM 5 – GENERAL ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT.

a. Procedure for MBSHC to designate their representatives to the Council (report by Italy)

b. Status of the ratification process of the new convention (report by Italy)

17. DISCUSSIONS OF KEY POINTS ARISING FROM NATIONAL REPORTS AND ALREADY NOT DEALT WITH

18. REPORTS FROM AND TO THE ADJACENT HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

20. DECISIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MBSHC MEETING

22. CLOSING

**16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Mediterranean & Black Sea Hydrographic Commission  
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**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dear colleagues, after having agreed on the meeting Agenda, allow me to summarize the events during the last two years directly relating to this Mediterranean and Black Seas Hydrographic Commission since its 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 22-24 October 2007 in Malta.

The main activities within the MBSHC region may be categorized in two major fields:

- Capacity Building Support
- Safety to Navigation in the MBSHC region

**A- Capacity Building Support**

We can say that these last two years have been a successful resumption of the activities aimed to evaluate and improve capacities either for cartographic production or the dissemination of maritime safety information among the states in the MBSHC region. As a matter of fact, during its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Riga – Latvia on 5 to 7 June 2007, the IHO CBC allocated funds in favor of the MBSHC for year 2008 in order to cover two activities: CPRNW MSI/GMDSS course and technical visits to countries within the MBSHC region.

The MSI course was conducted from 11 to 13 March 2007 at the Spanish Hydrographic Institute IHM in Cadiz in favor of six students from 5 member states: Algeria, Syria, Tunisia and Malta, with a special attendance of a student from Suriname.

The course aimed to provide practical guidance for drafting radio navigational warnings and for the issuance of Maritime Safety Information under the Global Maritime Distress and in Safety System GMDSS.

It was a prosperous continuity to the two previous ones and would be a good boost for a next one.

It should be noted that a number of courses in the hydrographic and cartographic fields are programmed occasionally in favor of IHO member states and associate and observer members of the regional hydrographic commissions. As a matter of fact, the first course in hydrographic data processing and marine cartography under the Japan Capacity Building Project, was announced by the IHB CL 10/2009 to be held in the premises of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office UKHO from 7 September to 18 December 2009 and a Turkish student was among the selected candidates. Furthermore, the first five week module of the UKHO recognized Cat B program to be delivered in Singapore between 22 February and 26 March 2010 was announced by IHB CL 59/2009 in favor of developing IHO member states and associate and observer members of regional hydrographic commissions. On this occasion I strongly encourage

applying to the course, since it would be another valuable opportunity to enhance hydrographic and cartographic capacities.

The second activity supported by the CBSC fund was a number of technical visits in favor of MBSHC members and aiming to assess hydrographic capabilities were planned to be carried out by the IHB in cooperation with volunteer MBSHC member states.

The CBC allocated travel and subsistence support for up to 10,000 euros for the visiting teams.

Four countries have indicated their desire to be assessed in hydrographic capabilities: Albania, Lebanon, Malta and Romania.

France and Italy volunteered and conducted the technical visits as follows:

- Italy (IIM) conducted technical visits to Albania from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2008 and to Malta from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2008.

- France (SHOM) conducted technical visits to Romania from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2008 and to Lebanon from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2009.

Each visit was the subject of a thorough report elaborated by the visiting team and which were sent to the MBSHC and IHO CBC chairmen. The outcome of these visits will be detailed under Agenda item 11.

The visits were within the expected level of expertise and proficiency. The results are very detailed and meaningful in terms of fixing the hydrographic deficiencies in the visited countries, and consequently in helping find the appropriate solutions to overcome those shortages and reflect the overall hydrographic capacities of the MBSHC as a whole body.

On another hand, the Black and Azov Seas Working Group has resumed his activities under the chairmanship of Rear Admiral Mustafa IPTEŞ, the director of the Turkish Navy Office of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography TN-OHNO, through two consecutive meetings held in Ukraine in March 2008 then in Romania in April 2009.

Many important issues were discussed at the meeting especially those relating to the status of hydrographic surveys in the area, capacities assessment, cooperation and agreements between the working group members and the INT charts and ENC production.

A number of required actions were outlined, the most important of which relates to the Term of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of the working group, which will be explained and endorsed under agenda item 10.

## **B- Safety to Navigation in the MBSHC region**

I would like to introduce this part with a reminder of the most important outcome of the 4<sup>th</sup> extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference held in Monaco last June 2009, which relates to ENC coverage. As we are all aware of, the ultimatum for world coverage of navigable waters with official ENCs is imminent. Nevertheless, a considerable number of concerned states will fail to meet this ultimatum, leaving the international market to other commercial products without guaranteed official products

from our hydrographic offices. Consequently, decision 14 of the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference stipulated to urgently identify shortages in ENC coverage and the appropriate remedial plans in order to achieve the target.

This decision would lead us to the necessity of an efficient coordination of efforts in covering navigable routes with ENCs among members of our commission, either with bilateral or multilateral arrangements or agreements. Thus the important role of the MEDINTCHART coordinator comes into picture.

Unfortunately, due to unfruitful discussions relating to the INT chart coverage of the Aegean Sea and parts of the Ionian and Mediterranean Seas covering Greek and Turkish waters and to a corresponding scheduled meeting in SHOM premises, this latter declared his tasks as MEDINTCHART coordinator restricted to routine matters only with no further edition of the MEDINTCHART catalogue, not willing to pursue this position after this meeting.

As a consequence of this issue, the Agenda of this meeting includes under item13 the election of the MEDINTCHART coordinator. I strongly encourage us to work together in a fair spirit, as always, in order to accomplish this item.

Another important issue that should be brought to you attention is the update of the IHO publication C55, the previously named IHO S55. In 2009, only five MBSHC members updated their input to this catalogue. Therefore, I would like to stress on the importance of keeping this publication up to date, letting Spain inform you more about the situation under agenda item 11.

Now, following the order established in the Agenda, we will designate the Vice Chairman for the meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

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**STATUS OF ACTION LIST FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Decision MBSHC15-1	Italy to draft the procedure of MBSHC's representatives designation to the Council.	Italy send first draft asking for comments and a further draft to be approved by correspondence.	Report by Italy
Decision MBSHC15-2	MS to update Italy (as MBSHC's Rep to ISPWG) on the progress of Convention amendments ratification process.	By December 1st, 2007	Report by Italy
Decision MBSHC15-3	MS to send current status of surveys to Spain.	Every year by February 1 <sup>st</sup>	No graphic update on the status of survey. Report by Spain under Agenda Item 11.a
Decision MBSHC15-4	MS and AMS to provide MBSHC's Chairman and IHB with national reports in standardized format.	At least 2 months prior to conferences	Only 13 reports received out of 25
Decision MBSHC15-5	Reworded statutes approved, with the inclusion of amending wording of Article 5.a. Chair to circulate new version and request IHB to place on IHO website.		Concluded
Decision MBSHC15-6	IHB to circulate report of final meeting of EUMEDIS MEDINTCHART project held in Trieste to MBSHC Chair for circulation to the Commission.	IHB MBSHC Chair	Concluded
Decision MBSHC15-7	Following allocation by 5 <sup>th</sup> CBC meeting of funding to support MBSHC activities, Tunisia as new Chair to send Circular Letter to all MBSHC members requesting whether technical visit is appropriate to their country and to identify others.	Tunisia by the end of January 2008	Concluded

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Decision MBSHC15-8	Following allocation by 5 <sup>th</sup> CBC meeting of funding to support MBSHC activities, Tunisia as new Chair to send Circular Letter to all MBSHC members requesting whether MBSHC members are able to provide staff to accomplish these visits.	Tunisia by end of January	Concluded
Decision MBSHC15-9	Following allocation by 5 <sup>th</sup> CBC meeting of funding to support MBSHC activities, Tunisia, as new Chair, to send Circular Letter to all members requesting identification of volunteers to attend CPRNW MSI Course in 2008 to take place in Cadiz (Malta alternative).	Tunisia by end of January 2008	Concluded
Decision MBSHC15-10	Spain as NAVAREA III Coordinator to send letter to the states bordering the Caspian Sea requesting opinions with respect to the creation of new Sub Area in that region.	Spain by end of December 2007	Concluded Report by Spain under Agenda Item 14.d
Decision MBSHC15-11	The Commission approves the resulting document summarizing the outcomes of the MEDINTCHART working session held during MBSHC15, as annexed to minutes.		Concluded
Decision MBSHC15-12	Italy will issue CL to MBSHC members to consider the way forward for VRENC.	Italy by end of January 2008	Report by Italy under Agenda Item 13.d
Decision MBSHC15-13	Italy, as official representative of MBSHC in Seapower Symposium, will circulate a draft to the Chairman and Member States in advance of meeting and report after these meetings.	Italy	Report by Italy under Agenda Item 7.b
Decision MBSHC15-14	BASWG to continue its work and WG Chair to distribute CL to members of this group and MBSHC Chair the latest status of this group announcing the next meeting to be held in Kiev in 2008.	Turkey/Ukraine will coordinate in preparation for this meeting.	Concluded
Decision MBSHC15-15	XVI <sup>th</sup> MBSHC meeting to take place in Kiev, Ukraine, in September 2009.	Ukraine to identify specific dates by end of 2007.	Concluded

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**SUMMARY OF IHB REPORT**

During the intercessional period the Organization and the Bureau were busy on numerous issues, a brief description of which is provided as follows:

- The main event that needs to be mentioned was the 4<sup>th</sup> EIHC that took place the first week of June in Monaco. 215 delegates participated from 61 Member States and 31 observers from non Member States, International Organizations and NGOs. Two ships visited Monaco during the Conference. One from USA and the other from Russia Federation. The Conference examined 15 Proposals coming from the ISPWG, HCIWWG, MSDIWG and Member States. It is of interest to mention that the Conference approved a new definition for Hydrography and the revised Strategic Plan of the Organization, proposed by the ISPWG. It also adopted a resolution so that relevant RHCs through appropriate liaison bodies, are invited to encourage the consistent use of hydrographic and nautical cartographic standards and mutual cooperation for the enhancement of navigation safety in navigable inland waters within and between region. Half a day seminar was organized where the status report on ENC developments was presented, followed by a useful discussion on various topics. Two resolutions were adopted on the coverage that Member States will have in place in 2010 and on the consistency and quality of ENC in relation with the respective paper charts. Member States have been asked with CL 35/2009 dated 10 June 2009 to report the national status of ENC Coverage. The report of the Conference is ready, it will be soon posted on the IHO web site and Member States will be informed through a CL.

- In parallel with the Conference it was organized a very interest exhibition of hydrographic, cartographic and oceanographic equipments and software, in which participated 30 companies.

- In the margins of the Conference four other events took place. The first meeting of the WG for the revision of S-23, the first meeting of the IRCC which elected Ingenieur General Gilles Bessero as its Chairman and the celebration of the WHD. The reports/minutes of these events have already been posted on the IHO web site. Of interest to highlight the approval by Member States to change the name of CPRNW to WWNWS, as it was reported with CL 46/2009 dated 3 July 2009.

- As it was reported by the Directing Committee in the Conference the approval of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention progresses very slowly. Since July 2005 only 25 Member States have approved the Protocol of Amendments.

- Starting 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2009 the new technical structure of the Organization came into force, with the establishment of the two main Committees. The inaugural meeting of the HSSC will take place in Singapore 22-24 October, after the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on ECDIS organized in Singapore from 19 to 21 October. Details have been provided to Member States with CL 21/2009 dated 2 April 2009.

- The IMO MSC has adopted the amendments to SOLAS Chapter V/19, introducing mandatory carriage requirements for ECDIS with a phased implementation period beginning 2012 and ending 2018. The amendments will come into force 1 July 2010. It also approved the revised text of the Joint IMO/IHO/WMO Manual on Maritime Safety information, which will come into force on 1 January 2011. Details have been provided to Member States with CL 41/2009 dated 17 June 2009 and CL 47/2009 dated 06 July 2009.

- The Organization has maintained an excellent cooperation with IMO, IALA, IOC and WMO. Especially it has to be highlighted the active participation and support of the Organization, on the E-Navigation activities of IMO and IALA. France and UK have to be thanked for supporting these activities providing, when they have been asked representatives to meetings, at no cost to the Organization; In capacity building activities there is a meeting taking place every year between the persons in charge of this activity in IMO, IHO and IOC were training and seminars of need in various regions are coordinated between the three organizations. With IOC there is a very active and efficient cooperation in GEBCO, Regional BCS and tides.

- In Capacity Building the Organization implements a very active program based on the proposals offered by the RHCs. It has to be noted that the Bureau, Japan Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department, Japan Hydrographic Association and the UKHO, are cooperating for the implementation of the Japan Capacity Building Project, through funds provided by the Nippon Foundation. Details of this 5-year program have provided with CLs 10/2009 dated 13 February 2009 and 24/2009 dated 24 April 2009.

**16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Mediterranean & Black Sea Hydrographic Commission  
(MBSHC)  
Odessa, Ukraine  
22- 24 September 2009**

**WORKING GROUP ON THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION  
IN THE BLACK AND AZOV SEAS**

**1. STATUS**

This Working Group is constituted within the framework of the Mediterranean and the Black Seas Hydrographic Commission (MBSHC).

**2. OBJECTIVE**

The main objective of the WG shall be to consider the hydrographic, cartographic, navigational and maritime safety information needs (MSI) and requirements of the States in the region and coordinate the appropriate actions.

**3. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The WG shall specifically examine the following issues:

- a. Status and needs of hydrographic surveying
- b. Status and needs for the production of paper and electronic navigational charts (ENCs)
- c. Status and needs for the promulgation of MSI
- d. Status of aids to navigation
- e. Capacity building and training needs and requirements
- f. Cooperation arrangements of the States in the region
- g. Coordination of needed actions to implement the above

**4. RULES OF PROCEDURE**

- a. Members of the WG shall be the countries bordering the Black and Azov Seas who are members of the IHO
- b. The countries bordering the Black and Azov Seas who are not members of the IHO, but who wish to cooperate in the work of the WG
- c. Other Member States of the IHO outside the region may become associate members, if they contribute in the topics of interest to the work of the WG
- d. Associate members shall have the same rights and obligations as the members of the working groups, except the right to vote

- e. Representatives from other international organizations (IMO, IALA, IMSO, IOC etc.) contributing to the work of the WG may be invited to participate in the meetings
- f. Chairman of the WG will be elected among the IHO members of the WG for a period of two years. He may stand for re-election
- g. The representative of the country hosting the meeting will act as Vice Chairman
- h. A representative of the IHO Directing Committee shall participate in the meetings of the WG
- i. The Chairman of the MBSHC and the NAVAREA-III Coordinator will also be invited to participate
- j. The WG will meet the year after the meetings of the MBSHC, between the meetings of the MBSHC or as it may be deemed appropriate by the WG,
- k. Decisions shall be taken by unanimity of the members
- l. The letter of invitation of the meetings, a draft agenda and any required documents will be dispatched by the Chairman three months before the meeting
- m. The minutes of the meetings, decisions and activities of the WG will be sent to the Chairman of the MBSHC, NAVAREA-III Coordinator, MEDINTCHART Coordinator and the IHB in order to be considered as appropriate

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**DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>Decision / Recommendation</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
MBSHC 16 Decision 1	Member States to consider providing coastal bathymetry data IAW relevant resolution of IOC and IHB CL 36/2006 to the IHB.	
MBSHC 16 recommendation 1	Member States to contribute actively in the development of NEAMTWS	
MBSHC 16 recommendation 2	Where possible, Member States to upgrade national sea level stations identified by NEAMTWS Implementation Plan to real time data delivery and participate in data exchange	
MBSHC 16 recommendation 3	On a voluntary basis, Member States to examine whether they want to participate actively in the NSHC EUMMWG and report to France	November 2009
MBSHC 16 Decision 2	MBSHC Chairman to study the procedure and guidelines for developing a disaster action plan as described in annex B of IHB Circular Letter 89/2005 and to provide input to the next IRCC meeting	
MBSHC 16 Decision 3	MBSHC Chairs to include the disaster management issues IAW with IHB CL 89/2005 as a permanent item in its Agenda	
MBSHC 16 Decision 4	The Commission approves the Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedures of the Black and Azov Seas Working Group as presented by the BASWG Chairman	
MBSHC 16 Decision 5	Russian federation and Ukraine to discuss on bilateral basis the issue of borders materialization on Ukrainian national paper charts and report to the Black and Azov Seas Working Group Chair.	

Decision / Recommendation	Details	Deadline
MBSHC 16 Decision 6	MBSHC Chairman to formally forward to the CBSC the results of the evaluation of the technical visits within the region with proposals on how these results will be implemented.	
MBSHC 16 Decision 7	Member States to send a graphic status of surveys to Spain.	Yearly by February the 1 <sup>st</sup>
MBSHC 16 Decision 8	Following allocation by the 7 <sup>th</sup> CBSC meeting of funding to support technical/advisory visits to Syria, Israel and Libya, MBSHC chairman to officially inquire whether these countries need such visits. In case one or more of these countries decline the need for a visit, other requests should be identified.	Chairman by end of end of year 2009
MBSHC 16 Decision 9	Following allocation by the 7 <sup>th</sup> CBSC meeting of funding to support technical/advisory visits to Syria, Israel and Libya, MBSHC chairman to officially identify volunteer Member States able to provide staff to accomplish these visits.	Chairman by end of end of year 2009
MBSHC 16 Decision 10	MBSHC Chairman to seek ways to get MBSHC Members, not participating in the work of the commission, to be more involved in the commission activities	
MBSHC 16 Decision 11	France to confirm agreement to continue acting as MEDINTCHART Coordinator, with the Terms of Reference set by HSSC for Regional International Charting Coordination Groups.	France by the end of year 2009
MBSHC 16 Decision 12	Technical disagreements arising from chart production discussions should be referred first to the plenary of the Commission.	
MBSHC 16 Decision 13	The MEDINTCHART Coordinator to convene by end of year 2009 a technical meeting in Feb-March 2010 of the appropriate members of the MBSHC International Charting Group to resolve pending technical issues and to issue a draft edition of MEDINTCHART catalogue by 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2010.	

Decision / Recommendation	Details	Deadline
MBSHC 16 Decision 14	Italy to circulate the proposed procedure regarding the designation of MBSHC representatives to the IHO council to MS for consideration	Italy by 15 October 2009
MBSHC 16 Decision 15	MS to consider the procedure proposed by Italy regarding the designation of MBSHC representatives to the IHO council and report to Italy.	MS by end of year 2009
MBSHC 16 Decision 16	Member States that have not ratified yet the amendments of the IHO convention to inform Italy about the progress of the ratification. Italy to report to the MBSHC Chairman.	
MBSHC 16 Recommendation 4	MBSHC Chairman is required to highlight in the standard meeting report the items that he would like to refer to the IRCC as recommended by the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the IRCC in June 2009	
MBSHC 16 Recommendation 5	MBSHC Chairman to invite Chairs of adjacent Regional Hydrographic Commissions to attend MBSHC meetings as recommended by the 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the IRCC in June 2009	
MBSHC 16 Decision 17	The XVII <sup>th</sup> MBSHC meeting to take place in Athens, Greece.	Greece to identify specific dates by end of year 2009
MBSHC 16 Decision 18	The Commission elected Turkey to chair the MBSHC for the period of 2009-2011 after Ukraine resignation expressed at the commencement of the 16 <sup>th</sup> MBSHC meeting	