

Report of the IHO-EU Network WG

Introduction

The EU Marine and Maritime Policy WG (EU2MPWG) was established as a WG under North Sea Hydrographic Commission in 2006. After the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and the IHO in 2012, the EU2MPWG meeting has been attended by nations in addition to NSHC members. The EU2MPWG has been very active, especially during the last couple of years, and arranged several meetings with EU/DG Mare.

A proposal was submitted to IRCC5 by SE on behalf of the NHC, supported of FR (Chair of EU2MPWG), to establish a permanent body under the IRCC with representatives from the respective RHCs within Europe. FR on behalf of the NSHC was tasked to “develop the ToR for the WG to manage the EU matters and the IHO/EC MoU and circulate to the IRCC Members”

Status of establishment

The draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for an IHO-EU Network WG were attached to IRCC CL01/2013, dated 13 November 2013. The establishment of the WG and its ToR and RoP were, with some amendments, approved by the IRCC Members; see IRCC CL04/14, dated 24 March 2014.

The different RHC within Europe have all initiated a process for the election of a representative to the IHO-EU Network WG. The following information on members representing the different HC was available at the NSHC meeting in June 2014:

BSHC: Sweden, **EAHC:** France, **MBHC:** Greece, **NHC:** Norway and **NSHC:** Germany. **ARHC:** DK has indicated willingness to represent the ARHC. The final decision concerning the representation is to be taken at an extraordinary ARHC meeting during the EIHC5.

At the recent NSHC meeting the transition from the present WG to the IHO-EU Network WG was discussed. The meeting made the following decision: *The Chair of the EU2MPWG to organize a last meeting for winding up the activities and facilitating the transferring of duties to the IHO-EU Network WG*

FR has approached the actual members of the two WGs and proposed a meeting to take place in Paris either 2 September or alternatively 28 August (yet to be decided). At this meeting the EU2MPWG will be disbanded and ongoing obligations transferred to the IHO-EU Network WG.

DG Mare projects

The EU2MPWG has proposed to DG Mare to launch a Joint European Coastal Mapping Programme (JECMaP). The WG has over the last year contributed with several proposals for the content of programme. DG Mare has informed that a Call for Tender for a Design Study of a JECMaP will be announced at the last half of July 2014. It will become the responsibility of the IHO-EU Network to consider this Call for Tender and act subsequently.

DG Mare has also informed that a Call for Tender related to the 3 phase of the European

**NHC 58th Conference
Helsinki, Finland
19-20 August 2014**

**Information paper
NSHC/58/D2
Norway**

Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) most likely will be announced in early 2015. The bathymetric part of this project should be of high actuality for the European HO. The NSHC31 proposed that the IHO-EU Network WG should have a key role in preparing for responding to a Call for Tender.

The NHC is invited to note this paper