

Update on the NSHC EU Marine and Maritime Policies WG (NSHC 27, Conclusion 81)

NSHC 27, Conclusion 81

To establish a working group on EU marine and maritime policies to monitor the impact on HOs with the following terms of reference:

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

and the following rules of procedures:

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

Status report

1. POCs provided by BE, DE, DK, IS, NL, NO, SE, UK and comments received on the strawman paper (NSHC27, C3.4)

- most of the comments were pretty positive, constructive, comprehensive or neutral, one member clearly against any EU influence on hydrographic activities

2. Discussions with EU Rep. in the margins of “Safer Seas” (Brest, Oct. 2007)

3. Visit to the European Commission paid by VAdm. Maratos (Nov. 2007)

Status report

■ Meeting with rep. of the Task Force for the « Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Union » (Brussels, 25 Jan. 2008)

- collective presentation made by NSHC Rep. (BE, DE, FR, NL, UK and IHB)

Meeting objectives

- *To raise awareness on HO 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*

→ *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*

Status report

4. Meeting with rep. of the Task Force for the « Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Union» Task Force (Brussels, 25 Jan. 2008)

- collective presentation made by NSHC Rep.
- EU activities depicted in the Blue Book action plan, of interest for HOs or which may benefit from HOs contributions, were identified

Status report

4. Meeting with rep. of the Task Force for the « Integrated Maritime Policy of the European Union» Task Force (Brussels, 25 Jan. 2008)

- collective presentation made by NSHC Rep.
- EU activities depicted in the Blue Book action plan, of interest for HOs or which may benefit from HOs contributions, were identified

5. Development and circulation of a draft MoU between the EC and IHO (CL 14/2008)

- now in Brussels after approval by IHO EU MS

6. Invitation to apply for the EMODNet Expert Group

Proposals to be considered

NSHC28 E4.1: to support NSHC EUM2PWG activities

NSHC28 E4.2: to consider the request made to IHO for a non-ambiguous « coastline » definition and length calculation methodology

NSHC28 E4.3: to identify the ways and means to optimize the links with the EC under the auspices of the proposed MoU, in liaison with the other IHO EU MS and RHCs.

NSHC28 (E2): formal signature of the MoU (when: European Maritime Day, WHD at EMSA, etc.)