



European
Commission



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 Organisation (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 networks, implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, marine research, data standards (including those specified by INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC) and cooperation with third countries. This will be achieved by maintaining and increasing the opportunities of scientific, technical, professional and operational support, through a continuing programme of cooperation leading to a mutual sharing of knowledge. This will enable Hydrographic Offices to become key enablers in the development of EU and national maritime policies and facilitate the implementation of EU policies including those regarding standards for marine data.

2. POINTS OF CONTACT

A point of contact will be set up on each side. This point of contact will ensure that the following are dealt with in an appropriate and timely matter:

- invitations to attend seminars, symposia and workshops;
- questions on technical matters.

The Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries will act as the contact point on the European Commission side. They will ensure that information requests and invitations from the International Hydrographic Organisation are directed towards the appropriate service of the Commission.

IHO will ensure that technical questions and invitations are directed towards the appropriate regional hydrographic commission or national hydrographic office.

3. MEETINGS

Meetings between the two sides will be arranged at least once a year. They:

- will be conducted in an open manner;
- will be announced in advance to IHO Members and interested Commission services;
- may be summarised on the web-sites of both parties.

4. VALIDITY

The provisions of this Memorandum are not intended to create legal rights or obligations under international law.

The Memorandum is valid until one side wishes to withdraw.

Each side has the right to propose changes to this arrangement at any time. Any changes shall be subject to the agreement of both organizations.

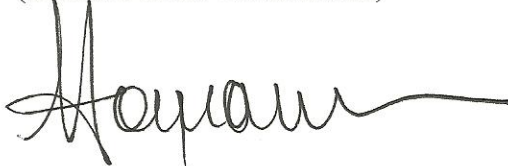
5. COSTS

Both Sides will bear their own expenses relating to pursuance of activities indicated in this Memorandum of Understanding.

For the European Commission

Maria DAMANAKI

(Member of the Commission)



For IHO

Alexandros MARATOS

(President)

