



## **Minutes of the Yearly Meeting – October 26<sup>th</sup> 2017, Helsingør**

From: Chairman, Secretary General

### **1. Present**

Mr. Francis Vallat, ENMC Chairman  
Mr. Paul Marceul, ENMC Secretary General  
Mr. Eric Van den Eede, Belgium  
Mrs. Ilze Atanasova, Bulgaria  
Mr. Mikkel Brønnum Hansen, Denmark  
Mr. Frédéric Moncany de Saint-Aignan, France  
Mr. Carlo Lombardi, Italy  
Mr. Fabrice Maire, Luxembourg  
Ms. Amélie Kiefer, Luxembourg  
Mr. Joseph Bugeja, Malta  
Mr. Marek Grzybowski Poland  
Mr. Alejandro Aznar, Spain  
Mr. José de Lara, Spain  
Mr. Alejandro Aznar, Spain  
Mr. Arjen Uytendaal, The Netherlands  
Mr. Iain Shepherd (Observer - Guest)

### **2. Presentation of the Port of Elsinore, welcome remarks, approval of the minutes of the previous meetings and the agenda**

The participants attended a short presentation by the Port of Elsinore which kindly sponsored the meeting. Then Chairman Vallat declared the meeting open at 9:00. He thanked the Danish Maritime Cluster for the exceptional arrangements they made, especially the boat trip to Sweden and for choosing the Marine Museum as location.

The chairman observed that eleven member countries were represented at this year's meeting (Portugal has given a power of attorney to Mr. Marceul). He informed of the absence and apologies of Germany (no capacity), Iceland (no budget), Ireland (cluster has been temporary shutdown), Portugal (clash with other meetings), and Sweden (Transition period).

Mr. Iain Shepherd explained to the other attendants that he is no longer representing any UK Cluster and that he would therefore be there for the last time. He had informed Chairman Vallat the day before.

The minutes of the Paris meeting of October 20<sup>th</sup> and of the internal meeting in Brussels of July 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 have been unanimously approved as well as the proposed agenda of this year's meeting.

### **3. Activity report 2016 -2017 and comments**

Secretary General Marceul briefly presented the activities / milestones since the last meeting: participation in the World Ocean Council (Active participation in the Sustainable Ocean Summit and follow-up of BBNJ initiative by the United Nations); the strong involvement in the Euromaritime trade fair; the preparation and follow-up of the 3<sup>rd</sup> high-level meeting with European Commissioner Karmenu Vella; the follow-up actions concerning the study and the financing of the ENMC. He also communicated some encouraging statistics, especially with regards to the increase of visitors on the website.

He also commented in detail the financial situation of the ENMC on the basis of the table below

Latest balance (Yearly meeting in Paris) : 21'045.25 EUR

Today: 11'708.50 EUR

Estimated by handover: 10'500.50 EUR

#### Breakdown:

Copenhagen meeting – Travel costs Presidium: 1'312.01 EUR

Internal meeting + meeting Vella – Travel and catering: 2'849.38 EUR

Travel costs WOC SOS Rotterdam: 894.50 EUR

Working sessions Presidium: 420.59 EUR

Residual costs Paris Meeting: 376.20 EUR

Administration and other travel costs: 3484.07 EUR

The ENMC members approved the financial statements and thanked the Chairman and the Secretary General for their actions and commitment.

### **4. Which recommendations from the Presidium on ongoing files?**

Chairman Vallat took the floor again to voice his opinions about the way to handle the ongoing files and to explain the lessons to be drawn from the past six years.

Concerning the ENMC structure he advised the members against incorporating the ENMC and having a legally binding structure as long as it is not necessary. He also recommended to keep the existing logo which was the result of a European wide contest and best expresses the values of the network.

Regarding the existing relationship with the European Commission he expressed his mixed feelings. Although the relationship with European Commissioner Karmenu Vella was very friendly and there

was no doubt to have about his commitment to help ENMC, some members of his staff and administration were repeatedly trying to put ENMC projects apart. As a matter of fact, the Commissioner appeared to have less power than expected a) over his administration b) and due to rules which prevent him to make some genuine decisions (and which seem impossible to avoid, even though it would be more efficient and appropriate). Anyway the Chairman recommended to maintain contact with all services, for obvious reasons. He also mentioned the good personal relationship existing with high personalities like J Machado, Bernhard Friess (or even Gesine Meissner at the European Parliament). The same applies to other European bodies which are important but not instrumental. Besides cooperation opportunities have been initiated and should be reinforced with the World Ocean Council and the CPMR – both have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the ENMC – in order to push our agenda.

As to the continuation of the study, no money should be expected for the time being but there is an interesting opportunity of pursuing and resuming the work with the consultancy Cogea and to look for funding opportunities with HORIZON 2020. The future Chairman of the ENMC and team will obviously have to contemplate this path, and especially contact Alessandro/Cogea in that respect

To end, the Chairman made known the results of the indicative internal survey started by the current Presidium to have an idea of a possible self-supporting network. It appeared that the twelve countries which replied by the time of the meeting could altogether gather around 40 000 EUR minimum (since not taking into account the supplementary contributions which will be brought by UK, Spain and four other countries who did not reply as yet, whilst some of them confirmed that they indeed intend to contribute, possibly significantly) . Furthermore, there is a possible substantial funding within Copernicus/Mercator, sub a minimal support by ENMC. This point has again to be clarified with MERCATOR. All details hereto will be handed over to the next Presidium.

## **5. Important issues of the European Blue Economy**

The clusters from Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Italy, Malta and Poland presented key aspects of their Blue economy and ongoing projects. The presentations will be uploaded on the website.

## **6. Organization of the handover after the election of the new Chairman and the departure of the current Secretary General**

Before holding the election, the current Presidium assured of its full support to the ENMC leaders to be elected. They detailed the actions they intend to take, including the current Chairman to accompany his successor in Brussels for a round of meetings with European authorities, and positive communication work about the change of leadership etc. Current Secretary General will also arrange the transfer of the electronic files, of the hard copies and prepare the transfer of the spare money still available on the ENMC bank account.

Then the Presidium announced the candidacies which had been received before the meeting:

### Chairman

Marek Grzybowski (Poland)

Arjen Uytendaal (Holland)

## Vice-Presidents

Frédéric Moncany de Saint-Aignan (France)

Ambassador Vincenzo Petrone (Italy)

The Presidium also recalled that the Article 7 of the ENMC Charta had been previously changed (approval at Brussels Meeting July 7<sup>th</sup> 2017) enabling to have three Vice-Presidents instead of one.

Then, Alejandro Aznar (Spain) declared his candidacy for Vice-Presidency during the meeting.

After having added Mr. Aznar's candidacy , the Chairman gave the floor to the two candidates for Presidency before going over to the vote. Both candidates explained their views and respective manifestos.

**All entitled members voted including Secretary General Paul Marceul representing Portugal.**

## Results of ballot

Mr. Marek Grzybowski received two votes.

Mr. Arjen Uytendaal received nine votes and was consequently elected as the new Chairman of the ENMC.

All three Vice-Presidents were approved. They gave their full support to the newly elected Chairman and confirmed that they will work hand in hand with him, in order to elaborate the new strategy of the ENMC (Meeting to be held in the coming months). They also confirmed their wish to reach the target of gathering 100 000 EUR among the national clusters to finance the future road map..

Finally, the former and the newly elected Chairman delivered two speeches. The latter concluded his allocution with the proposal of nominating Mr. Francis Vallat Honorary Chairman of the ENMC. The proposal was unanimously approved.

## **7. Miscellaneous**

Upon proposal of the respective Cluster Chairmen, the next yearly meetings will be held in Malta (2018), Italy (2019) and Luxembourg (2020).

Since there was no further business to be discussed, the newly elected Chairman closed the meeting at 4:30 pm.