



Ifremer views on EuroGOOS and its evolution towards and EIG

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The agreement for the establishment of EuroGOOS EIG was reviewed by Ifremer legal department and discussed with Ifremer top level management.

Ifremer is an active member of EuroGOOS, participates to many of its activities (chair of IBI-ROOS, chair of data-MEQ, board member) and is also represented in most of the EuroGOOS ROOSes. Ifremer considers that EuroGOOS is an essential organization to promote and develop scientific and technical coordination for operational oceanography in Europe. We thus favorably welcome the proposal to consolidate EuroGOOS towards a legal structure. The specific objectives for its transformation into an EIG should be, however, better explained (e.g. what are the new activities that require such a transformation?). We consider, in particular, that a new EuroGOOS structure should allow a more effective coordination of the implementation of sustained in-situ observing systems for the European regional seas and the global ocean.

The EIG status raises, however, a number of issues, in particular, for the unlimited liability. A budget plan for the first years is also lacking. As far as Ifremer is concerned, a decision to join an EIG needs a formal approval by Ifremer board. This can be a long (at least 6 months) process and a positive decision cannot be granted at this stage. An ASBL (*Association sans but lucratif*) structure would be a better solution for us (no liability issues, simpler adherence process). Such a structure would also fit with our understanding of long term objectives of EuroGOOS future structure.