



Nicosia declaration for an ECOMF Strategic Partnership

The representatives of European national agencies and institutes that deliver operational oceanography services, listed in Annex I

CONSIDERING their national mandates and roles in collecting marine *in-situ* observations and delivering ocean forecasting and monitoring information over their national maritime domain

RECOGNIZING:

- The contribution of operational oceanography for better exploiting the marine resources, increasing protection and safety at sea, and monitoring and protecting the marine environment,
- The contribution of operational oceanography to the monitoring of climate and climate change impacts, as well as to the weather and seasonal forecasting;
- The need of European and national authorities to have an operational access to reliable and real time information about the state and evolution of the marine environment from global to regional and local scales;
- The improved knowledge based system that the GMES Marine Service is offering to underpin the key European Union objectives, among others “sustainably managing natural resources and ecosystems and fighting and adapting to climate change”;
- The importance of the GMES Marine Service for the European “Blue” economic growth and relevant European policies, including (i) the European Union Integrated Maritime Policy and its Marine Strategy, the Common Fishery Policy, the European Union Research and Innovation Policy, and (ii) the international conventions, such as, the Barcelona Convention, the Bucharest Convention, the OSPAR Convention and the Arctic Council;
- The coordination role of EuroGOOS with regard to operational oceanography and its contribution to define and implement a marine monitoring system in Europe, including the establishment of the Regional Operational Oceanographic Systems (ROOSs);
- The progress made in implementing an appropriate Marine Research Infrastructure;

- The major progress made by the MyOcean and MyOcean2 projects, which have developed and demonstrated a robust GMES Marine Service focusing on the needs of intermediate users, national service providers as well as European Union and international organizations;
- The impact of the European Union GMES Programme on structuring the European Operational Oceanography and the ongoing developments leading to the creation of a European Center for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting (ECOMF);
- That the National agencies and institutes involved in operational oceanography and the future ECOMF are part of a common and integrated infrastructure for operational oceanography forecasting and observing services, contributing to Europe's ability to act as a global player.

COMMIT TO establish balanced relationships and sharing of capacities between the European GMES Marine Service, and its provision through ECOMF, and the Member State institutions that provide operational oceanography services **by creating today** the **“ECOMF Strategic Partnership”** in collaboration with EuroGOOS and with the following basic principles:

- **“Openness”**: Being a Strategic Partnership open to all EuroGOOS and ROOS members that deliver operational oceanographic forecasting and observing services of national interest;
- **“Transparency”**: Establishing clear rules for participation to, and relationship with, the Strategic Partnership between the Partners;
- **“Mutual benefit”**: Aiming to maximize the benefits for all the members of the Strategic Partnership, in particular regarding the economies of scale linked to the implementation of the GMES Marine Service;
- **“Complementarity”**: Recognizing the important role of the national operational oceanographic systems in the development of the overall GMES Marine Service chain especially its *in-situ* observation infrastructure and downscaling and downstream service components, enabling to avoid unnecessary duplications between the national and the European service infrastructure.

AGREE through the **“ECOMF Strategic Partnership”** to jointly

- Develop and promote a common understanding of the ***respective scopes of European Union GMES Marine and national services*** in order to strengthen the economies of scale and avoid duplications between the European and national levels;
- Develop and promote a common understanding regarding ***the contribution of partners to global and regional observing systems***;

- Define the *rules for dissemination of products and services between the European and national levels*;
- Develop a strategy for the *evolution of the GMES Marine Service and national public services products*, to be implemented in the frame of the European Union 2020 Innovation Strategy;
- Promote *career opportunities and mobility for highly skilled marine scientists and engineers* to ensure the operation capacity and the workload for improvements of the marine services;
- Define and implement a common communication and outreach strategy.

AGREE, for this purpose, to establish a joint Action Plan to be assessed and revised each year.

CALL UPON the European Union and its Member States to enter into a strong and long-term commitment for the funding of the observation and service infrastructure needed for operational oceanography, including adequate *in-situ* observation systems.

ANNEX I

Provisional list to be finalized when the signatories of the declaration will be known

Participants to the Nicosia meeting

- BSH, Germany
- CNR, Italy
- DMI, Denmark
- FCOO, Denmark
- FMI, Finland
- HCMR, Greece
- IMGW, Poland
- INGV, Italy
- Instituto Hidrográfico, Portugal
- IO PAS, Poland
- IOI-UM, Malta
- Marine Systems Institute at Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia
- Mercator Ocean, France
- Met.no, Norway
- MHI, Ukraine
- MUMM, Belgium
- NCOF MetOffice, UK
- NERSC , Norway
- OC-UCY, Cyprus
- SMHI, Sweden

As agreed by the meeting participants, the list of strategic partners in this Annex I will be improved by a wider consultation of EuroGOOS and ROOSs members based on this Declaration.

The following partners already expressed their support and willingness to join:

- Puertos del Estado, Spain,
- IMS-METU, Turkey
- IMB, Slovenia
- SOCIB, Spain
- IOLR, Israel