Spain National WG on MASS: the importance of different perspectives on regulation

Hernán del Frade,
DGMM/MITMA
Initial remarks

• MASS as a challenge for industry, users and regulators
• First time that a new field on maritime transport is regulated while technology is being developed
• Automation of cars and drones as forerunners, but maritime transport has its own specificities
• Due to these three issues, a close understanding among stakeholders is needed
• A timely series of conferences on sustainable transport at the MITMA (Spanish Ministry of Transport) on 2020 sparked the idea of a WG in order to face this challenge
Spain interest on MASS

• MASS developing is a key issue for Spain, due to the relevance of its position as port & coastal State
• National industry on shipbuilding has great interest on development of MASS
• A great array of projects are developed or under development
• Administration shall be aware of technical and legal developments in this area
• Spain has participated at IMO MASS RSE and is part of IMO MSC MASS CG and of EC HLSG MASS Sub-Group
• Each State is watching what other States do, as we do so
The WG

• Established at the end of 2020, the group had initially only 17 members.
• Six meetings had been held since then
• On-line meetings, due to the pandemic, but shifting now to an hybrid mode
• Next meeting will be held presentially in Madrid in October 24th
• At this moment, the WG has 40 members and is still growing
• Among them there are representatives from Industry (shipyards, systems companies, engineering), Ports, Research Bodies, Class, Associations, Ports, Pilots, Agents, Govt Agencies, etc.
WG tasks

• Know what are the different stakeholders in Spain
• Have a broad view of on-going and future projects
• Exchange experience and points of view
• Inform about international developments
• Share presentations on common issues on MASS
• Prepare guidelines and recommendations
• Propose ideas on regulatory development at national/international level
Next steps

- Assist the representatives at IMO and EC groups, specially the MSC CG MASS
- Develop the internal regulations basis
- Establish links with Academia
- First presentational meeting of the group (October 24th)
- National conference on MASS, to be held in Madrid on October 25th
Conclusions

• Knowing the different interests may help to achieve an holistic approach to the issue
• Putting in touch different stakeholders could assist them on reaching their objectives
• Information from all parties defines the big picture
• The different projects give an idea of the trends on the field and helps to anticipate the next move
• The consideration of the needs of all parties can set the path to an effective regulation
Thanks for your attention!!

hjdelfrade@mitma.es