

IHB File N° S1/1100

<p>CIRCULAR LETTER 28/1999 7 June 1999</p>
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THIRD INTERIM REPORT ON IHO STRATEGIC PLANNING

References: A. Decision No. 11 of the XVth I.H. Conference.
 B. IHO Circular Letter No. 44/1998 of 5 October 1998

Dear Sir,

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to keep Member States informed of progress on Strategic Planning issues. The previous progress report was contained in CL 44/1998.

The third meeting of the Strategic Planning Working Group, due to be held in March 1999, was cancelled because there was insufficient business to justify a meeting. However, various matters have been addressed by correspondence. The following points are noteworthy:

Strategic Plan and Work Programme

The comments received from Member States in response to CL 44/1998 were generally favourable, requiring no major change to the draft Strategic Plan and Work Programme. A majority of the responses received also supported the draft changes to the qualifications of Directors.

The SPWG has also progressed with the development of a planning cycle for the Organization.

In order to obtain final approval of these proposals, the IHB has proposed that an extraordinary conference be held in March 2000 [See C.L. 18/1999].

Structural Change

Circular Letter 44/1998 referred to the need to review and change if necessary some activities and structural aspects of the Organization. The Directing Committee has prepared a detailed proposal, which was considered by the SPWG in April 1999. This proposal deals with

changes at the IHB, and concerns changes to the publications and the chart collection, and with increasing the tempo of activity. It also identifies some cost reductions, so that the changes are budget neutral.

Member States will be asked to approve these proposals in a separate Circular Letter, which has been recently issued (C.L.25/1999).

The SPWG has also reviewed the need to establish a Board to assist the Directing Committee during the inter-conference period. It considers that this is not necessary at present.

Constitutional Change

The SPWG has reviewed the need to change the Convention, and has concluded that change to this basic document is not justified at present. It considers that the organizational adjustments which are needed now can be achieved through approval of changes to the General Regulations.

Future work of SPWG

The SPWG will meet again in November 1999. During this meeting it will finalize its report to Member States, as required by Decision 11 of the XVth Conference, and will finalize the Strategic Plan and Work Programme. It will also prepare reports related to Conference Decisions 5, 7, and 8.

Conclusion

By the end of 1999 the SPWG will have completed the work required by Decision 11. A final report will be issued in early 2000.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Commodore John LEECH
Director