



IHB File No.S3/3055

CIRCULAR LETTER 125/2005
13 December 2005

24th Session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly

Dear Hydrographer,

The 24th session of the IMO Assembly was held at IMO headquarters in London from 21 November to 2 December 2005.

The Minister for Transport of the United Kingdom, in his capacity as the home nation minister responsible for shipping, addressed the opening session of the Assembly and raised the issue of "E-navigation". He said that the UK, together with other co-sponsors, would present a paper for consideration at the next session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC). The full text of the address is in Document A 24/INF.9 which can be downloaded from the IHO web site (www.iho.shom.fr) > INT Organizations > IMO

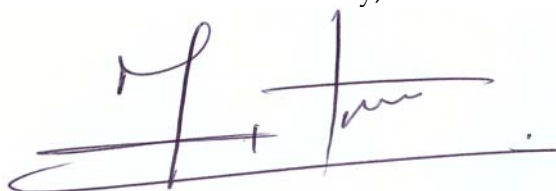
The Assembly approved 3 resolutions related to "Ships' Routeing" concerning the Establishment of an area to be avoided in the Galapagos Archipelago; New and amended traffic separation schemes and associated routeing measures in SW Baltic Sea and Amendments to the existing mandatory ship reporting system "In the Great Belt Traffic Area" all of which will come in to force at 0000 UTC on 1 July 2006.

The IMO Secretary General, in his report to the Assembly on developments at the International Maritime Academy (IMA) in Italy, thanked the IHO for its continued support for IMA. He urged all MS and Organizations to maintain and to consider increasing their support and funding for IMA and also for the World Maritime University (WMU) in Sweden and the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) in Malta.

The Assembly approved the plans for the refurbishment of the IMO HQ building, which will take 13 months beginning at the end of July 2006. Most meetings will be held at alternative venues in the UK, however the 82nd session of the MSC in Nov / Dec 2006 will be held in Istanbul, Turkey.

It was announced that World Maritime day in 2006 would have the theme "Technical Co-operation: IMO's response to the 2005 World Summit" and that this would have a special emphasis on addressing the maritime needs of Africa. The main event will take place in London with a parallel event being held in Singapore.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,



Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President