



IHB File No. S3/3055

**CIRCULAR LETTER 15/2006
30 January 2006**

**MEETING OF THE IMO CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON EVALUATION OF
THE USE OF ECDIS AND ENC DEVELOPMENT
20-22 FEBRUARY 2006, IHB, MONACO**

- References:
- a. CL 69/2004 dated 15 October 2004
 - b. CL 05/2005 dated 11 January 2005
 - c. CL 64/2005 dated 21 June 2005
 - d. CL 79/2005 dated 18 August 2005

Dear Hydrographer,

As reported in reference c, the IMO Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation decided, at its 51st session (NAV 51), to reconvene the Correspondence Group (CG) on Evaluation of the Use of ECDIS and ENC Development. The CG will meet on 20-22 February 2006 at the IHB, under the chairmanship of Mr. Baard Thingstad of the Norwegian Maritime Directorate. The revision of the IMO Performance Standards for ECDIS will be on the agenda for the meeting and Document MSC 80/21/2 (IHO-Greece Submission to MSC 80 proposing amendments to the ECDIS PS) will be one of the documents to be considered by the CG. This document had been drafted by CHRIS and submitted to IMO, following approval by Member States as reported in reference b.

A proposal on this matter has recently been received from the German Ministry of Transportation, Building and City Development, which constitutes a significant change to the ECDIS PS. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, where Greece is referred to in this document as the proposing country, this should be understood as the IHO, which actually presented the paper to IMO. Greece simply supported the submission.

Additional comments have been received from Australia and France. All documents to be referred to by the CG are available on the IHO website (www.iho.shom.fr > INT Organizations > IMO).

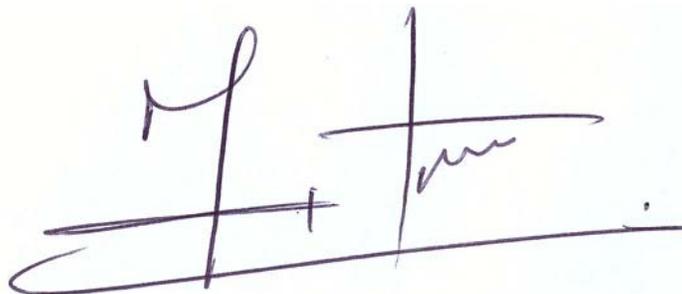
Due to the significance of the changes proposed and given that there is insufficient time available for the IHB to consult CHRIS and Member States on this matter, it is IHB's intention to propose the following two options to the CG:

1. reconvene the IHO-IMO Harmonizing Group on ECDIS (HGE). The HGE, which developed the ECDIS PS, has been dormant since 1998. The Chairman of CHRIS (presently Capt. R. Ward, Australia) is the Chairman of this group. Should HGE be re-activated by NAV, the membership of the group would need to be updated;

Or

- IHO will provide its comments to the CG at a later date. If this option is agreed upon by the CG, then an ad hoc IHO Working Group will be set up under the chairmanship of Capt. Ward, as CHRIS Chairman, to examine the papers and come up with recommendations to be submitted to Member States for their consideration and approval.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a light blue rectangular stamp. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'A' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President