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**CIRCULAR LETTER No. 1/2007
5 January 2007**

**VOTING SITUATION FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO
THE IHO CONVENTION AND
UPDATE CONCERNING PENDING MEMBER STATES**

- References:
1. IHB CL 1/2006 dated 5 January 2006.
 2. Decision N°2 of 3rd Extraordinary I.H. Conference (April 2005)

Dear Hydrographer,

1. VOTING SITUATION FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE IHO CONVENTION

The External Relations Department of the Government of Monaco has reported to the Directing Committee that, to date, 11 Member State Governments (Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and UK) have formally notified their approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention, as approved at the 3rd EIHC. The Directing Committee urges Member States to actively follow up this matter with their Government Authorities in order to speed up the voting procedure.

2. UPDATE CONCERNING PENDING MEMBER STATES

- i) Countries whose application for membership has been approved (listed in chronological order), but who have not yet deposited their Instrument of Accession:
- **MAURITANIA** (application approved in February 1991)
 - **BULGARIA** (application approved in April 1992)
 - **QATAR** (application approved in November 1993)
 - **ROMANIA** (application approved in April 2005)
 - **SAUDI ARABIA** (application approved in April 2005)
 - **IRELAND** (application approved in July 2006)

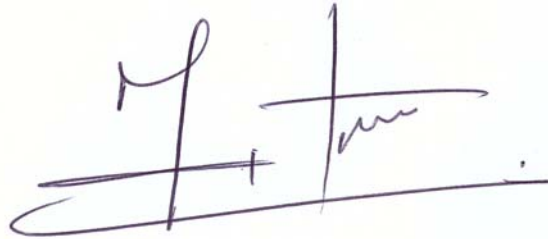
The Directing Committee is in contact with these States in order to provide possible support in proceeding with depositing their Instrument of Accession and becoming Member States of the Organization.

- ii) Countries whose application for membership has not yet obtained the required approval:
- **CAMEROON** applied for membership in June 2004 (CL36/2004 refers) and to date has obtained 40 approvals out of a required 47.
 - **SIERRA LEONE** applied for membership in February 2006 (CL17/2006 refers) and to date has obtained 29 approvals out of a required 49.

The Directing Committee is very keen for the IHO membership process to be accelerated and would very much hope to see these countries participating in the XVIIth I. H. Conference in May 2007 as full IHO Member States. Those IHO Member States, whose Governments have not yet approved the applications made by Cameroon and Sierra Leone are urged to actively encourage their Government authorities to do so as soon as possible (see lists provided in Annex A).

I take advantage of this first Circular Letter to renew the IHB's best wishes to you all for a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A

PENDING MEMBER STATES

*Note by IHB: According to the latest information we hold on record, the following countries have **NOT** notified their approval of the applications for IHO membership made by Cameroon and Sierra Leone to the Government of Monaco (External Relations Department).*

CAMEROON

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Estonia, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.

SIERRA LEONE

Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Latvia, Mauritius, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, USA, Venezuela.
