



IHB File No. S1/0015

CIRCULAR LETTER 63/2009
09 September 2009

PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE IHO CONVENTION

Dear Hydrographer,

1 During the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC), the Directing Committee presented the progress on the Ratification of the Protocol of Amendments to the IHO Convention. The Protocol of Amendments was approved in April 2005 by the 3rd EIHC and in July 2005 was circulated by the Department of External Relations of the Government of Monaco through Diplomatic channels to Member States for approval in accordance with the procedures detailed in Article XXI of the IHO Convention. Up to now 26 Member States have approved the Protocol of Amendments. In August Monaco became the latest Member State to indicate its approval. The list of approvals is maintained on the IHO web site ([Home](#) / [About the IHO](#) / [About Member States](#) / Status of Approvals).

2 On 1st January 2009 the new technical structure of the Organization comprising two main Committees, the IRCC and HSSC, was implemented. The IRCC had its first meeting back-to-back with the 4th EIHC, while the HSSC will meet in Singapore in October. Various other bodies of the Organization have started working in accordance with the new structure. While the new technical structure has been activated in part, the balance of changes envisaged by the Organization cannot be fully implemented until the Protocol of Amendments has been approved by the required two-thirds of Member States. Today, this requires another 22 Member States to signify their approval.

3 The Directing Committee considers that full implementation of the improvements to the Organization as detailed in the Protocol of Amendments should occur as soon as possible. If this can be achieved within the next two years, the 2012 Conference could be held as the first IHO Assembly meeting and the first IHO Council could be selected and approved. Member States that have not yet communicated their approval of the Protocol of Amendments in accordance with the procedures detailed in Article XXI of the IHO Convention are urged to do so as quickly as possible, so that this target to be achieved. The Directing Committee stands ready to provide any support that Member States may require.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a horizontal line.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS,
President