



IHB File No S1/0100

**CIRCULAR LETTER 01/2011
05 January 2011**

UPDATE ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

References: a) CL 63/2009 dated 09 September
b) CL 66/2009 dated 30 September
c) CL 01/2010 dated 05 January

Dear Hydrographer,

At the beginning of a new year, the Directing Committee would like to provide the latest information on four administrative matters concerning the Organization.

1 STATUS OF VOTING ON THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE IHO

.1 According to the information provided by the External Relations Department of the Government of Monaco, to date, 29 Member State Governments (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, UK and USA) have formally notified their approval of the Protocol of amendments to the Convention of IHO, as approved at the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) in April 2005.

.2 It is now close to six years since the approval of the amendments at the 3rd EIHC during which time three letters have been sent to governments through diplomatic channels by the Government of Monaco. The Directing Committee has also provided clarifications and support when requested. Nevertheless, the overall number of approvals by Member States remains low, with only one approval in 2010. Meanwhile, a number of complementary organizational changes have nevertheless gone ahead, as approved by Member States. The revised technical structure of the Organization was implemented on 1 January 2009 via the two main Committees (IRCC and HSSC). The 4th EIHC in June 2009 approved a new Strategic Plan, also based on the framework envisaged by the amended Convention.

.3 The Directing Committee therefore:

- Urges those representatives of Member States that have not yet approved the amendments to the Convention to actively follow up this matter with their government authorities. As has been stated in reference a) if the required 48 approvals (19 more needed) can be achieved by this year, then the 2012 Conference could be held as the first IHO Assembly meeting and the IHO Council could be selected and approved by the Assembly. This should

be considered as a goal/target of the Organization and the Directing Committee stands ready to provide any support that Member States may require;

- Requests that Regional Hydrographic Commissions examine, at their meetings, the progress of approval of the Protocol of amendments to the Convention of IHO by their Member States, identifying any possible problems that may be present and if needed, seek the assistance of the Bureau.

2. STATUS REPORT ON PENDING MEMBER STATES

.1 The following countries, whose application for membership has been approved, have not yet deposited their Instrument of Accession:

MAURITANIA (application approved in April 1991)

BULGARIA (application approved in April 1992)

CAMEROON (application approved in February 2009)

SIERRA LEONE (application approved in September 2010)

.2 The Directing Committee has been in communication with the authorities of these countries providing documents and has responded to various questions in order to support them in depositing the Instrument of Accession.

.3 The following countries have applied for membership but have not yet obtained the required number of approvals from Member States:

MONTENEGRO applied for membership in August 2007 (CL75/2007 refers) and to date has obtained 51 approvals out of a required 52;

HAITI applied for membership in June 2008 (CL 50/2008 refers) and to date has obtained 43 approvals out of a required 52.

.4 Those IHO Member States, whose Governments have not yet approved the applications made by Montenegro and Haiti are urged to actively encourage their Government authorities to consider doing so as soon as possible (see lists provided in Annex A).

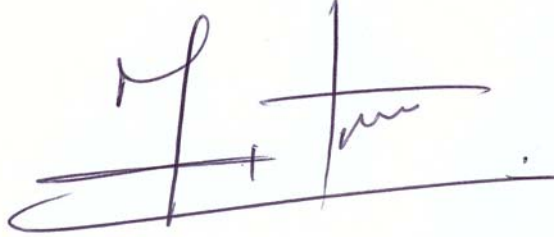
3. RESPONSES TO IHO CIRCULAR LETTERS WHERE VOTING IS REQUESTED

.1 Member States have been reminded on various occasions of the importance of responding to CLs that request a vote. Although this has resulted in an improvement in the response rate for most voting procedures, in most cases, even when voting responses were wholly supportive, the response rate still barely achieves the required majority without a further round of prompting to the residual Member States by the Bureau. The Directing Committee would like to remind all Member States, once again, of the importance of expressing an opinion on all matters of the Organization and in particular of participating in the decision-making processes by responding to the relevant CLs.

4. VISA AND IMMIGRATION SUPPORT FOR IHO DELEGATES ATTENDING MEETINGS

.1 As has been indicated in reference b) the Directing Committee wishes to remind Member States that are hosting IHO meetings or training events of the need to ensure that all appropriate measures are in place to provide overseas participants with all the necessary support required to obtain visas and complete any necessary entry requirements.

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 background.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Annex A: Status concerning Pending Member States

**MEMBER STATES WHICH HAVE NOT YET NOTIFIED THEIR
APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR IHO MEMBERSHIP MADE BY
HAITI AND MONTENEGRO**

HAITI

Algeria, Bahrain, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.

MONTENEGRO

Algeria, Bahrain, China, Colombia, Cyprus, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.
