

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC  
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE  
INTERNATIONALE**

IHB File No. S1/1001/WP

**CIRCULAR LETTER 8/2011  
24 January 2011**

### **ANNUAL CYCLES FOR THE REVIEW OF THE NEW STRATEGIC MECHANISM**

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) in 2009 approved the revised Strategic Plan (SP). Conference decision No 6 agreed to request the Directing Committee to review possible needs for assistance in preparing the annual cycles of the new Strategic Mechanism, in consultation with the Chairs of the two IHO Committees, the HSSC and the IRCC, and to report to Member States before the end of 2010. During the Conference Norway indicated its willingness to support the Directing Committee with an expert on this subject to assist in the preparation of the report.

2 In September 2009 the Directing Committee (DC) communicated with the Norwegian Hydrographic Service (NHS) which made an expert available to assist the DC in studying the various obligations and requirements imposed by the approved SP, examine the implementation issues and develop appropriate recommendations to Member States. Although an initial meeting took place with the assigned expert at the IHB his continuing support was not possible because of a transfer to another Agency. This had the effect of delaying the progress of further study. Nevertheless, the Directing Committee has made some progress.

3 The following steps have been taken:

.1 The Work Programme (WP) for 2011 has been drawn up based on the three new WP recognized by the revised SP and based on the new structure of the Organization, instead of the five WP that existed in the past. In addition, the associated Strategic Directions (SD) and Strategic and Working Performance Indicators (SPIs - WPIs) have been included against relevant WP items. In this way it should be easier for the Directing Committee and the two Committees to evaluate each task in the WP in the future and to determine any possible changes or improvements that may need to be considered;

.2 The Directing Committee has forwarded a paper, inviting the HSSC and the IRCC to consider the impact of the Strategic Planning Process on their work and to decide how the two Committees can best fulfill their reporting and monitoring obligations under the SP process. The paper was examined by the HSSC during its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in October 2010 in Rostock, Germany, and input was provided to the Bureau. This is reported in the minutes of the HSSC meeting. The Chair of the IRCC presented some views on the paper indicating that it will be examined by the IRCC during its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in May 2011 in Brazil. Issues that have been included in the paper for consideration by the two committees are summarized as follows:

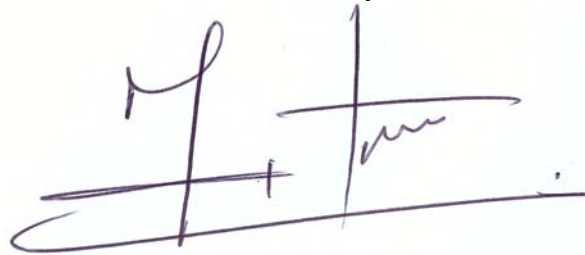
- Determining the Committee process to be followed for the update of the SP;
- Determining the Committee process for the review of the annual WP;
- Examining and reviewing the practicality of PIs for possible simplification and improvement; and
- The role of the two Committees in the “bottom- up” component of the Risk Management process

4 Only a limited examination and evaluation of the SP was possible in 2010 given the limited resources and expertise available to the Directing Committee and the lack of quantitative data required for many of the Performance Indicators. This is expected to improve in 2011 with a changeover of staff at the IHB (see CL53/2010) and further changes over the next few years due to retirements.

5 The Directing Committee will draft a report, to be circulated to Member States towards the end of 2011 for consideration by the XVIII<sup>th</sup> International Hydrographic Conference in 2012. This report will summarise the way that the SP has been implemented since its approval and will propose possible improvements. This report will be based on comments provided by the two Committees, the observations of the implementation of the new WP and any views expressed by Member States.

6 Member States are requested to provide any comments that they may have on this report or on the wider issues of the Strategic Planning process by 28 February 2011.

On behalf of the Directing Committee  
Yours sincerely,

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

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS  
President