

**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC
ORGANIZATION**



**ORGANISATION HYDROGRAPHIQUE
INTERNATIONALE**

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**CIRCULAR LETTER 37/2012
28 March 2012**

**PARTICIPATION OF HIGH STANDING NATIONAL OFFICIALS
IN THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC CONFERENCES**

Reference: CL 75/2011 dated 30 November

Dear Hydrographer,

1 The reference invited Member States to provide comments on whether high standing national officials should be invited to participate in the Opening Ceremony of International Hydrographic Conferences (IHCs) and to inform the Bureau whether such participation was feasible for the XVIIIth IHC in April. Only nine responses were received: eight States indicated their support for the proposition, but, at the same time, most indicated that a high standing official would not participate in the next Conference. Only France nominated such an official - the Secretary General of the Sea (*Secrétaire Général de la Mer*). One State did not support the proposal.

2 Because of the inconclusive outcome, based on the limited number of responses, the Directing Committee will not incorporate this initiative into the programme of the Opening Ceremony, considering instead that this probably requires further consideration before it becomes a permanent part of the Opening Ceremony of Conferences/Assemblies of the Organization. Nevertheless, noting that France has nominated a representative, and several other senior representatives from other organizations are expected to participate in the Opening Ceremony, the programme of the speakers during the Opening Ceremony of the Conference will be amended slightly to include the French Secretary General of the Sea.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President