



INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION
MESO AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN SEA HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION



MACHC Letter 04 / 2009
13 January 2009

To: MACHC Full Member States
Subject: **Voting Situation for the Amendments to the IHO Convention**
Reference: IHB CL 01/2009

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Attending the request made by the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB) through the referenced Circular Letter, regarding the formal approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention to the External Relations Department of the Government of Monaco, as approved by the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC), I kindly ask you to fulfil the annexed form and return it to me **no later than Feb 13th 2009**, sending an e-mail to <int.rel@dhn.mar.mil.br>, with a copy to <wesley.cavalheiro@yahoo.com>

Yours sincerely,



LUIZ FERNANDO PALMER FONSECA

Vice Admiral (Brazil)
Brazilian Director of Hydrography and Navigation
MACHC Chairman

Copy:
IHB: Capt Hugo Gorziglia <hgorziglia@ihb.mc>; Capt Federico Bermejo <fbermejo@ihb.mc>

DIRETORIA DE HIDROGRAFIA E NAVEGAÇÃO, Rua Barão de Jaceguay, S/Nº, Ponta da Armação – Centro, CEP 24048-900 - Niterói, RJ, Tel. (+55 21) 2189-3014 - e-mail: <int.rel@.mar.mil.br>

Note: To improve the Commission's effectiveness, this letter is provided only by e-mail.

INFORMATION FORM

*(to be returned to MACHC Secretary before 13 February 2009
E-mail: <int.rel@dhn.mar.mil.br> , copy to <wesley.cavalheiro@yahoo.com>*

Voting Situation for the Amendments to the IHO Convention

Member State :
Contact :
E-mail :

1. What is the status of the formal approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention to the External Relations Department of the Government of Monaco, as approved by the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC), by your government?

- Approved already
- Under consideration by the Congress / Parliament
- Under consideration by Government Authorities
- Other. Specify: _____

Comments: _____

2. May you describe possible problems to speed the formal approval of the mentioned amendments?

3. Do you think an assistance of the IHB would be useful to your process to speed the formal approval of the mentioned amendments? What kind of assistance?

Signature :
Title / Name :
Date :



IHB File No. S1/0100

CIRCULAR LETTER 01/2009
05 January 2009

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

Dear Hydrographer,

1. VOTING SITUATION FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

According to the information provided by the External Relations Department of the Government of Monaco, to date, 20 Member State Governments (Australia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, German, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia and UK) have formally notified their approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention, as approved at the 3rd Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference (EIHC) in April 2005. After more than three and a half years since the approval of the amendments at the 3rd EIHC and two letters sent by the Government of Monaco through diplomatic channels, the number of Member State Governments who have approved them remains very low. This may have a negative effect on the efforts to put in place as soon as possible the new structure of the Organization, also bearing in mind that, from 1st January 2009, the Organization starts operating through the two main Committees Structure. The Directing Committee therefore urges Member States to actively follow up this matter with their Government Authorities in order to speed up the voting procedures. Furthermore, Regional Hydrographic Commissions (RHCs) are requested to examine, at their meetings, the progress of approval of the amendments to the IHO Convention by their Member States, possible problems that they may encounter and, if needed, seek the assistance of the Bureau.

2. UPDATE CONCERNING PENDING MEMBER STATES

.1 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)

.2 Countries whose application for membership has not yet obtained the required approval (listed in order of date of application):

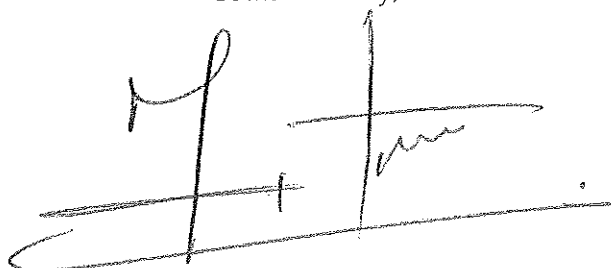
- CAMEROON applied for membership in June 2004 (CL 36/2004 refers) and to date has obtained 46 approvals out of a required 48;
- SIERRA LEONE applied for membership in February 2006 (CL 17/2006 refers) and to date has obtained 41 approvals out of a required 49;
- MONTENEGRO applied for membership in August 2007 (CL 75/2007 refers) and to date has obtained 45 approvals out of a required 49.

- HAITI applied for membership in June 2008 (CL 50/2008 refers) and to date has obtained 31 approvals out of a required 52;

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

3. I would like to take advantage of this first Circular Letter to renew the IHB's wishes to you all for a very happy, healthy, prosperous and successful New Year.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Maratos', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Vice Admiral Alexandros MARATOS
President

Encl: Annex A

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

CAMEROON

Bahrain, Brazil, China, Colombia, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.

HAITI

Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, USA, Venezuela.

MONTENEGRO

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

SIERRA LEONE

Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, China, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, USA, Venezuela.
