



AD HOC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON
THE ORGANIZATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN
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Agenda item 4

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REVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Inclusion of a new strategic direction in the Organization's Strategic Plan regarding the reduction of administrative burdens

Submitted by Sweden

SUMMARY

Executive summary:	This document contains a proposal to include a new strategic direction to work towards reducing the administrative burden on private entities bound by the rules of the Organization.
Strategic direction:	n/a
High-level action:	n/a
Planned output:	n/a
Action to be taken:	Paragraph 8
Related documents:	Resolution A.989(25)

Background

1 IMO adopted the first Strategic Plan of the Organization, at the Assembly's twenty-third session, covering the period 2004-2010. The system has now been used for two biennia and a third version of the Plan, for the period 2010-2015, is to be adopted at the Assembly's forthcoming session in November of this year.

Administrative burden – a prioritized area

2 Sweden would like to see an additional strategic direction added to the Organization's Strategic Plan, addressing the issue of reducing the administrative burdens of the private sector entities to which the rules adopted by IMO apply (i.e. shipowners, ports, etc.). The overall administrative burden on most private entities such as shipowners has increased tremendously over the years. To address this important issue, Sweden proposes that IMO takes a proactive approach in respect of its work towards reducing these administrative burdens in the shipping sector.

3 The problem of increasing administrative burdens on private entities is currently being discussed in many IMO Member States. In this regard, the present Swedish Government has set a goal to reduce the administrative burden for companies by 25%, with a special focus on small companies.

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Why is it important?

4 The shipping industry, as well as other private sector industries, needs sound business conditions to ensure sustainable businesses, which, in itself, facilitates trade between nations. This has become apparent in the light of the recent downturn in the global economy, which has gravely affected the shipping sector. Reducing administrative burdens is one way to give the sector better conditions.

5 Reducing administrative burdens could also have a positive effect on maritime safety since the overall administrative burden on seagoing personnel would most probably be reduced.

6 The cost of the administrative burden is, to some extent, already being taken into account in different parts of the Organization. One example of the present practice may be found in the Guidelines on the organization and methods of work of the Maritime Safety and Marine Environment Protection Committees, in which a proponent of a new work programme item is required to present an analysis of the cost to the maritime industry as well as the relevant legislative and administrative burdens when proposing such new items (paragraph 2.10 of MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.2).

Proposal

7 Sweden firmly believes that a more strategic decision needs to be taken in respect of the work towards reducing the administrative burden deriving from Conventions under IMO's control. The Organization needs firm steering in this respect, with interlinked performance indicators. Sweden, therefore, proposes that the reduction of administrative burdens be added to the strategic plan of the Organization for the period 2010-2015.

Action requested of the Working Group

8 The Working Group is invited to consider the proposal in paragraph 7 and take action as appropriate.
