



COUNCIL
24th extraordinary session
Agenda item 12(b)

C/ES.24/12(b)/1/Add.1
26 September 2007
Original: ENGLISH

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(b) Relations with non-governmental organizations

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on follow-up action regarding the International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) and the Iberoamerican Institute of Maritime Law (IIDM), in the context of the periodical review of organizations in consultative status with IMO

Action to be taken: Paragraph 2

Related documents: C 98/18(d)/1, C 98/D; and C/ES.24/12(b)/1

International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) and Iberoamerican Institute of Maritime Law (IIDM)

1 Since the issue of document C/ES.24/12(b)/1, the Secretary-General has received responses from IMHA and IIDM, which are reproduced at annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

Action requested of the Council

2 The Council is invited to consider the information provided by IMHA and IIDM and to comment and decide as appropriate.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

ANNEX 1



IMHA

International Maritime Health Association

IMHA Board 2007-2009
 Nebojša Nikolić, President
 Suresh Narain Idnani, Vice-President
 Sally Bell, Secretary
 Bas Rikken
 Michael Lund Nielsen
 Andra Ergle
 Ilona Denisenko

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Fao: Rosalie P. Balkin
 Director Legal Affairs and External Relations Division
 4 Albert Embankment
 London SE1 7SR
 United Kingdom

Date: Thursday, 20 September 2007

Dear Dr. Balkin,

Consultative status: International Maritime Health Association (IMHA)

I hereby confirm the receipt of your letter dated 23 July 2007 to Tim Carter in which you acknowledge the position we take towards our contribution to the work of the IMO. We also confirm the receipt of your letter dated 24th of July 2007 in which you inform us that our provisional consultative status has been retained and will be revisited at IMO's twenty-fourth extraordinary session in November.

We are more than interested to continue to participate in IMO work and substantially contribute to its work in the area of our expertise. We are convinced that it would be beneficial for both sides.

As Tim Carter already explained in his letter of 13th July 2007, IMHA has defined at least three areas of current IMO committee work where we feel that IMHA can actively and substantially contribute:

- The cross Government/Industry group of scientific experts to evaluate the effects of fuel options – MARPOL.
Our official representative Tim Carter is already a member of this work group and has attended group meetings.
- The MEPC discussions about the inclusion of health, safety and environmental features in goal based construction standards.
- The revision of STCW.

I would hereby like to ask IMO to acknowledge that our work on special projects such as MARPOL, or the recently completed IMO/WHO/ILO publication of the International Medical Guide for Ships, would be considered acceptable to maintain our consultative status.

We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss our position and suggestions for our cooperation with your relevant IMO officials. We will contact your Director of the Maritime Environment Division, Mr. Miguel Palomares or his Senior Deputy Director Mr. Du Dachang as you suggested, to make further arrangements.

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 Web <http://www.imha.net>

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 Account nr. 416-6104001-76
 IBAN : BE91 4166 1040 0176
 BIC : KRED BE BB

IMHA is registered in Belgium as an international association by Royal Decree of 14/07/1998, identification number: 22285/98



Nevertheless, we can already confirm that our board member Michael Lund Nielsen will participate in the MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE (MSC) - 83rd session Copenhagen, Denmark, on the 3rd of October 2007 and Tim Carter will attend the IMO General Assembly 19-30 November 2007.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nebojša", written in a cursive style.

Nebojša Nikolić
President
International Maritime Health Association

cc: Tim Carter

Past President
International Maritime Health Association
2/09A Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR



IMHA

International Maritime Health Association

IMHA Board 2007-2009
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International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Fao: Mr Efthimos Mitropoulos
Secretary General
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

Date: Friday, 13 July 2007

Dear Mr Mitropoulos,

Consultative status: International Maritime Health Association (IMHA)

The IMO Safety and Environmental Pollution committees recommended that IMHA be given consultative status and this was endorsed for a four year period. I was concerned to hear recently that this has been called into question prior to the end of the four year period because IMHA had attended relatively few of the formal IMO meetings.

I have been the person with the IMHA lead for liaison with IMO but have also been, until recently, the IMHA president. Now my term of office has expired I will have the opportunity to be much more actively engaged in IMO business. In the meantime I have kept in touch by scanning meeting agendas and papers and through my excellent contacts at the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency where I work part-time as their Chief Medical Adviser.

Until recently I have not identified any items of IMO business where IMHA could usefully contribute other than:

- The medical aspects of search and rescue, where IMHA contributed through the work of members who were also flag state delegates.
- Health and safety in fishing, where we worked with the joint IMO/FAO/ILO group rather than directly with IMO.

However this has now changed and there are at least three areas of current IMO committee work where we can contribute and help develop future strategies:

- The cross Government/Industry group of scientific experts to evaluate the effects of fuel options. I am a member of this group and attended the kick-off meeting on 11 July where you gave the introduction. IMHA can help with evaluations of risks and precautions for crew members and for the wider groups affected by emissions. I look forward to playing an active part in this work, to which you clearly give a high priority.
- The MEPC discussions about the inclusion of health, safety and environmental features in goal based construction standards. Here we can provide expertise on health related aspects of vessel design and operation. I note that this work would also involve the ILO, with whom we have worked on a range of maritime health topics.

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- The revision of STCW, where the inclusion of fitness standards is being considered. IMHA has a group developing criteria for evidence based medical fitness criteria as well as one concerned with the quality of fitness assessments. The EU referred to these IMHA initiatives in their paper for the recent STCW meeting, suggesting that they represented the best way to develop a valid approach in this difficult area. Again development of criteria and then standards would involve cross agency working as ILO/WHO produced guidelines on medical fitness in 1997 that now need revision, a process that ILO commended for review in a resolution attached to the Maritime Labour Convention.

The role of IMHA in the cross industry group is now defined but I would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss how best we can play a useful part in the other two activities with you or with appropriate staff members at IMO. There may also be other topics, particularly in the human element programme to which we can contribute and I would be interested to hear more about these.

I can readily come and visit as I am based on the UK Department for Transport HQ just over the river from IMO.

I look forward to hearing from you or your office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tim Carter'.

Tim Carter
Past-President
International Maritime Health Association

My direct contact details are

Tel: 0207 944 2030
Email: tim.carter@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Post: 2/09A Department for Transport
Great Minster House
76 Marsham St.
London SW1P 4DR

ANNEX 2



Instituto Iberoamericano de Derecho Marítimo

September 4, 2007
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Dr. Rosalie P. Balkin
Director
Legal Affairs and External Relations Division
International Maritime Organization

Dear Miss Balkin:

We thank you for your letter dated July 19th, 2007, we appreciate your concern.

Due to our financial limitations, we are unable to send a representative to each and every meeting held by the various international and regional organizations. We truly do our best to cover the costs of traveling and attendance to IMO's meetings, which all take place in Europe.

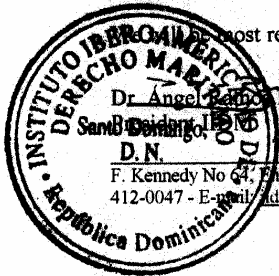
We have, nonetheless, attended the last London meeting of the Sub-Committee on Safety on Navigation, Session No. 53, and will also be sending a representative to the next MSC83 to be held in Copenhagen and to other following meetings.

Our efforts with IMO must be measured in the context of spread and effective implementation of the Safety Conventions and related in the Iberoamerican ambit; therefore we believe that both IMO and IIDM should relevantly continue together and stay in their present mood of consultative cooperation. On our behalf, we shall see to improve our calls at IMO meetings. We were unaware that observers may submit documents or proposals at those meetings or previously.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that during our XII International Maritime Congress, which will be held in the month of November, in Seville, we will be addressing IMO's Liability Conventions, such as CLC, FUND, HNS and the recently adopted Wreck Removal Convention, among others, which will contribute to further diffuse these issues in the Iberoamerican area.

Perhaps, with our assistance, a fresher IMO policy of vicinity to our Latin-American context may be set in motion and ideally some of the future IMO meetings or events might take place in this part of the world.

We are most ready and available to you for upgrading our mutual cooperation.



Dr. Angel Rafael Brusiloff
Santo Domingo, D.R.
D.N.

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