

FINANCE COMMITTEE OFFICERS' MEETING
28th April 2004, IHB

According to Article 14 of the General Regulations, the Directing Committee met on the 28th April with the Finance Committee Chairman Mr M. Gaziello from Monaco and Vice-Chairman Mr B. Bussey from the UKHO, to discuss different issues of financial interest to the Organization. The following topics were discussed :

- a. The draft Finance Report for 2003 was examined in detail, together with the Auditor's report, and was approved by the Finance Committee Officers. The Directing Committee forwarded it to Member States with CL 30/ 2004 dated 28th April 2004;
- b. The status of Member States' contributions was examined for the year 2003 and also for the first quarter of 2004. Member States who are in two or more years' arrears was a topic of particular discussion and the Directing Committee noted their intention to communicate with the Member States concerned in order to rectify the situation;
- c. The status of Finance Committee Circular Letters was examined. The Directing Committee briefed the Finance Committee Officers on FCCL 5/2003 which deals with the alignment of the salaries with the UN system, and in accordance with the decision of the previous Hydrographic Conference, it was approved by the required two thirds majority of the Member States.
- d. The status of votes on the FCCL 7/2003 which deals with the modification of Article 21 of the Financial Regulations and CL 15/2004 concerning the inclusion of a new section in the IHO Administrative Resolutions is heading towards approval by the necessary majority votes;
- e. Developments on the legal issue that began in 1993 between one of the Bureau's Staff members and the French Tax authorities in Nice were examined. Although the Administrative Court in Nice ruled in favour of the staff member as a result of the actions that have been taken by the person concerned with the assistance of (the Organization and) the Bureau, the Tax authorities continue to pursue the case to the Court of Appeal in Marseille while initiating identical tax claims for more recent periods (to 2002 IHO income). Due to the precedence this case could set, the Directing Committee follows this issue very closely and has informed the Government of Monaco on the developments and is seeking a meeting in order to discuss possible actions that the Government of Monaco can take to assist (on behalf of) the Bureau.
- f. The Directing Committee and the Finance Committee Officers agreed to move paragraph IX.4 of the Staff Regulations to Annex A, as it refers to the Staff under the Internal Retirement Fund (IRF) and not to the Staff covered by Personalized Retirement Plans. This paragraph, approved by the International Hydrographic Conference in 1987, had been misplaced in this Chapter during subsequent revisions to the Staff Regulations.
- g. The investments of the available funds for the IRF were examined. The current level of investments at risk in the IRF was considered acceptable for the time being and will be re-evaluated at the November 2004 Meeting.

It was decided that the next Meeting will take place at the Bureau on the 24th November 2004.