

From: Capt. Peter Kortenoeven, IC-ENC Chairman  
To: Evert Flier, NHS  
Hans Christopher Lauritzen, PRIMAR  
Copy: Tonis Siilanasusk, PAC Chairman  
RAdm Tom Karsten, UKHO  
Paul Canham, UKHO

11th October 2013

Dear Evert and Hans,

Following the recent RENC Co-operation meeting in London on 10<sup>th</sup> October, please accept this letter in response to your request for further supporting information on the IC-ENC Steering Committee conclusions regarding the IHO-WENC concept paper. The aim of this letter is to support the PRIMAR Advisory Committee discussions on this topic, and elaborates on the information provided in the Steering Committee Open Session minutes provided ahead of the PRIMAR Strategy Working Group.

The document consisting of the most current status (version 7 of the IHO-WENC Concept paper) was distributed to IC-ENC members as a Steering Committee discussion paper. It is important to recognize that this was the first time IC-ENC members had the opportunity to review and comment on our work; only a very few were present at WENDWG3 where this work began, and even fewer (Chair, General Manager and Regional Manager) participated in the drafting group.

At our Steering Committee meeting in 2012, strategic guidance was set to harmonise RENCs under the IHB banner in order to stimulate membership. The concepts as presented in version 7 of the paper are perceived by the Steering Committee to move towards a model of operation with greater presence/involvement of the IHO/IHB, but with governance and operating policies imposed on IC-ENC from a 'Management Board' which sits above the authority of the Steering Committee.

In addition to the extra expense and layer of governance that this would bring, there were five main areas of specific concern (extracted from the draft minutes, and so therefore currently under review by the meeting attendees):

1. There is a concern over the status of the IHB and their authority to actively govern/manage operations. The IHO's remit is one of a consultative and technical advisory body and not a directorial one. There is also a legal concern due to the inability of the IHB to enforce any aspects of the proposed scheme, due to their earlier defined nature.
2. There is a transition within this proposal from the democratic governance currently in existence under RENCs to one where a Management Board would impose its will upon members. Thus a mixed governance model is proposed which would most likely be untenable.
3. Who will assume the liability for the ENC's disseminated by the RENCs, and for RENC office operations? United Kingdom Secretary of State for Defence (i.e. via UKHO and its place in UK government) currently accepts a certain level of liability for operations carried out by IC-ENC HQ, where this office is hosted. The paper does not consider that if the IHO were to assume responsibility for RENCs then they would by inference assume some liability of such operations.

Note: I understand from James's report from the RENC Co-operation meeting that NHS's understanding of its liability for PRIMAR operations is different, and this issue will be discussed by your legal team. I would be interested in hearing the conclusions of this discussion so I can draw parallels with the IC-ENC operation.

4. Do the IHB have the capacity to take up this governance/management role?  
For it to work properly they must have sufficient dedicated resources. As currently configured, our understanding is that the IHB is working more or less to full capacity at the moment and therefore will not have the available resource to sufficiently govern this scheme.
5. The two models that currently exist (IC-ENC and PRIMAR) are very different. To converge these two models will be difficult and may not be possible. Enforcing an overarching layer of governance could actually have unintended negative consequences and hinder any further efforts at harmonisation.

Given these reservations, the Steering Committee concluded that it can no longer support the direction defined in the IHO-WENC Concept Paper. However, the Steering Committee recognised the value of the work done on it so far, and is determined not to lose this but build on it in a different slant. Can I please request that this option is raised during the PAC discussions, so that we can quickly establish the PAC's feeling on this.

Various options for building on the work were discussed, including producing a set of minimum operating principles for RENC Operations as an annex to the WEND Principles, but these ideas are not yet mature enough for further elaboration. Additionally, the Steering Committee requires further analysis to be sure that this system would have the desired affect of increased membership.

The Steering Committee also agreed that the IC-ENC RENC organisation is going from strength to strength; membership is growing, the ENC database is growing and costs are reducing. There are a significant number of nations at various stages of the joining process, and the Steering Committee noted that these nations have shown specific interest in the existing IC-ENC operating model, and not the new concepts as presented in the IHO-WENC concept paper.

Finally, the IC-ENC Steering Committee has expanded the drafting group for any further such work. This is to avoid a repeat of the current situation whereby a piece of work has reached a significant level of maturity without the input from the IC-ENC membership.

I look forward to hearing the views of the PRIMAR Advisory Committee during the open session. Following the meeting, we will need to update the IHB and the RHSG on the current thinking.

Yours Sincerely,



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