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**Sujet:**S-23 WG Letter 03/2011 - Report to MS

**Date :**Fri, 1 Jul 2011 12:51:37 +0300

**De :**HNHS Geographic Policy and International Relations <geopol@hnhs.gr>

**Pour :**'Michel Huet' <mhuet@ihb.mc>

**Copie à :**<amaratos@ihb.mc>

Dear Michel,

On behalf of the Director of HNHS please be informed that:

Greece *agrees in general* with the "Way Forward" proposed by the Chairman of the S-23 Working Group in S-23 WG Letter No. 03/2011 dated 24 May 2011 and the use of the 2002 draft edition of S-23 as a basis to reflect the positions that will be approved by Member States on the specific issues that appear in the said letter.

We also agree with the necessity of including the *Important Notice* in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of S-23 and would like to submit a few amendments/additions (in bold), which in our view will strengthen its added-value. More specifically, the text would read as follows:

"[...] Since 1953, areas of certain water bodies as well as their names and names of adjacent land features have changed. **Most** of these areas and names are clearly recognized; however, **some** areas and names are controversial. These subjects are politically sensitive in nature and are likely to remain sensitive. [...] S-23 does not have any legal or political connotation whatsoever and must not be accepted as such by any legal or juridical body, **since it was not intended to be used as a basis for delimitation or for any specific attribution of rights.**

This latest revision of S-23 offers a new way of highlighting potential controversial subjects, as follows:

1. Some States that are adjacent to certain water bodies have **long** accepted and use names and limits of oceans and seas that are different from the ones appearing in this publication. Where **there is evidence that** States use different names or limits compared to the ones indicated on specific pages, a reservation footnote has been inserted concerning different or alternative names, limits or both...."

Finally, with respect to *other views and positions expressed by members of the S-23 WG, as posted on the IHO web site*, we fail to understand Turkey's approach, which directly relates its approval of the Way forward and the use of the 2002 draft edition of S-23 as a basis of discussions to the acceptance of its belated proposal to amend the southern limit of the Aegean Sea (c.f Turkey's Comments on Proposals in the S-23 WG Letter 02/2011, dated 20 May 2011).

More specifically:

a) This issue falls *outside the mandate* of the WG, which is confined to the following areas, namely, the naming of the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago; whether the Malacca and Singapore Straits should be located in the Indian Ocean or the South China Sea and Eastern Archipelagic Seas; and proposals by China for changes in names and limits in the South China Sea, East China Sea and Yellow Sea.

b) So far as substance is concerned, there are *no technical, cartographic or hydrographic reasons* for the proposed amendments to the southern limit of the Aegean Sea, which in addition refer exclusively to areas falling within Greece's sovereignty or sovereign rights.

We cannot, therefore, accept the proposed amendments.

With kind regards,

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