



International Mobile Satellite Organization

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-First Session
27 – 29 February 2008

Agenda item 4

IMSO/AC/21/4

Origin: Director

Date: 8 February 2008

DIRECTORATE ACTIVITIES

Executive Summary:	this document sets out substantive Directorate activities since the last Session of the Committee
Action to be taken:	to note the substantive activities of the Directorate
Related documents:	none

1. Travel and Meetings

The following travel to attend different meetings has been undertaken since the Twentieth Session of the Committee:

1.1 Meeting with Heads of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) and the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT)

On 31 January 2008, the IMSO Director met with Mr Ahmed Toumi, the Director General of ITSO and Mr Christian Roisse, the Executive Secretary of Eutelsat igo. Issues of common interest were discussed, related to the companies they oversee. They also reviewed the instruments currently in place for monitoring the ability of the supervised companies to fulfill their obligations to the intergovernmental organisations in the long term. Consideration was also given to the role of the satellite organisations in relation to the activities of international organisations such as the ITU, UNCOPUOS, IMO, ICAO and the EU.

It is proposed to hold summit meetings on an annual basis in the future and a Memorandum of Understanding between the three organisations is under consideration for approval by the Assembly of Parties of each organisation.

A Press Release issued by EUTELSAT, which was sent to all IMSO Parties on 5 February 2008, is attached.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the three organizations will be submitted to the Twentieth Session of the Assembly for approval, together with a recommendation regarding the admittance of both EUTELSAT and ITSO to the Assembly as observers.

1.2 **IMO Ad Hoc LRIT Working Group**

29 January to 1 February 2008

The IMSO Deputy Director and Technical Assignee attended the IMO Ad Hoc LRIT Working Group, at which the timely established of the LRIT system and technical specifications and standards were widely discussed. The group focused its efforts in particular on DDP schemes and other high level technical issues. The group agreed to evaluate and review the outcome of this meeting and other outstanding issues by its next meeting, scheduled to be held on 11 to 14 March 2008. Final documentation will be submitted to MSC 84 in due course.

1.3 **UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Committee**

11-22 February 2008

The Deputy Director will attend this meeting and the outcome will be reported to the Committee in an Addendum to this document.

2. **Website and Information on IMSO**

As notified to all IMSO Member States, the new IMSO website became operational on 6 February 2008. Member States have been invited to apply for individual logins and passwords for the Members area and the Advisory Committee area. The website will continue to be enhanced on a regular basis.

3. **Status of Acceptances of 2006 Amendments to the IMSO Convention**

As notified to IMSO Member States on 28 January 2008, the Slovak Republic has accepted the amendments to the IMSO Convention which were adopted on 29 September 2006 by the IMSO Assembly at its Eighteenth Session, in conformity with Article 19)2)(d) of the Convention, the first IMSO Party to do so.

In accordance with Article 18 of the IMSO Convention, acceptance to the amendments is effected by the deposited of an instrument of acceptance with the Depositary of the Convention, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The amendments shall enter into force one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Depositary has received notices of acceptance from two-thirds of those States which, at the time of their adoption by the IMSO Assembly, were Parties to the IMSO Convention. All IMSO Member States have been urged to take the necessary action to accept the 2006 amendments as soon as possible, in order for them to enter formally into force.

4. **Accommodation**

At its Twentieth Session, the Advisory Committee, during its discussions relating to the 2008 Budget, requested the Director to continue to explore alternative accommodation, including discussions with IMO, potential office space identified in the building of the headquarters of the International Coffee Organization, the UK Government which had responsibilities to assist IMSO under the Headquarters Agreement, and other possibilities, in the light of the planned expansion relating to LRIT. Members of the Committee were invited to submit suggestions in this regard. As requested, the Director will report to the Assembly on this matter.

In the meantime, arrangements are in hand with Inmarsat to sign a five year lease, with a one year notice period, for the current premises. Inmarsat has instructed its lawyers to commence work on the new five year sub-lease and, as Inmarsat no longer owns the building, Inmarsat is also seeking the landlord's consent for the long term sub-let. The lease includes the additional office for the Technical Assignee from 7 January 2008 (the cost of which will be borne entirely from the LRIT budget). The lease will also include potential expansion to accommodate a meeting room and the three staff to be recruited once the LRIT programme is established, to be charged only as and when those staff are in place.
