

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS  
IWC.CCG.442

**Revision to Composition of the RMS Small Drafting Group (SDG)**

Further to Circular Communication IWC.CCG.438 of 25 October informing you of the composition of the SDG, please note that:

- Belgium has now indicated that it will not take part;
- Nicaragua has now been included in the group after consultation with Advisory Committee members.

With respect to Nicaragua, immediately on receiving Circular Communication IWC.CCG.438, the Commissioner of Nicaragua contacted the Secretariat to question why Nicaragua had not been included in the SDG as he believed he had indicated his country's wish to join this group back in September. It became clear that there had been a misunderstanding. As the earlier Circular had indicated that the list of SDG members was closed, the Secretariat consulted with Advisory Committee members. They were of the view that Nicaragua should be included in the group. In taking this view they noted the genuine misunderstanding that had occurred and that with Belgium's withdrawal, the addition of Nicaragua would not augment the size of the SDG. They also considered that the overall balance of the group would not be unduly affected.

The composition of the SDG is now as follows:

- |                       |               |                |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| • Argentina           | • Japan       | • South Africa |
| • Denmark             | • Netherlands | • Sweden       |
| • Guinea, Republic of | • New Zealand | • UK           |
| • Iceland             | • Nicaragua   | • USA          |

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