



*Eastern Atlantic Hydrographic  
Commission (EAtHC) Secretariat*

**EAtHC Letter Nº. 1/2021**

**12 February 2021**

**From:** Rear Admiral Carlos Ventura Soares  
Portugal National Hydrographer and EAtHC Chair

**To:** Members, Associate Members and Observers of the IHO EAtHC

**Subject:** Postponement of the EAtHC 16 and associated activities

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Dear EAtHC Colleagues,

1. As you are aware, the biennial Conference of the EAtHC (EAtHC16) is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 13 to 15 April 2021, preceded by a MSI & MSDI Seminar. However, taking into account:
  - a. The present worldwide situation regarding COVID19 pandemic and, consequently, the persistent limitations in international travel and group meetings;
  - b. The advantages of having a face-to-face meeting for EAtHC members versus the effectiveness of VTCs, specially for countries without hydrographic offices established;
  - c. The ongoing widespread vaccination which, after the Summer, may allow face-to-face meetings;

I am considering some changes to the meeting calendar.

2. Accordingly, after consultation with some EAtHC Member States and the Capacity Building Coordinator, the postponement of EAtHC 16 was considered for:
  - a. 27 and 28 September 2021: MSI & MSDI Seminar;
  - b. 29 September to 01 October 2021: EAtHC 16 plenary conference.
3. If by July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the COVID 19 situation is still not under control, two options are to be considered regarding the meeting format and the sanitary risk:
  - a. Hybrid conference (part of the members face-to-face and those who are unable to travel to Lisbon can participate via VTC);
  - b. Only via VTC if major COVID 19 related restrictions are still expected to be in place.
4. Once it is determined how the plenary conference will be held, an invitation will be issued, along with the logistics information, a registration form, and a draft agenda.



5. Finally, I would like to thank you for your efforts in support of EAtHC and wish you all, families and colleagues, all the best in overcoming the effects of COVID-19 and returning to some sort of normalcy.

Yours sincerely,



Carlos Ventura Soares

Rear Admiral

(EAtHC Chairman)

