



Mr. Francis ZACHARIAE
Secretary-General
International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA)

Ankara, 28 November 2024

DECLARATION OF COUNCIL CANDIDACY BY MEMBER STATE

Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with Article 7.7 (d) of the Convention and Article 3.5 of the General Regulations of the association mutatis mutandis, I have the honour to inform you that I have been authorized to present the Republic of Türkiye, as a candidate for election to the Council of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation in February 2025.

The attached statement sets out the Republic of Türkiye credentials for a position on the Council.

Should the Republic of Türkiye be elected it will be represented at Council meetings by Mr. Mustafa BANKAOĞLU - Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of Directorate General of Coastal Safety

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A statement setting out his credentials to represent the Republic of Türkiye is attached.

Mustafa BANKAOĞLU
Chairman of the Board of Directors and
Director General

TÜRKİYE'S CANDIDATURE TO IALA COUNCIL ELECTIONS

To Member States of IALA

Türkiye: A Devoted Member State for "Successful Voyages and a Sustainable Planet"

Soon after the establishment of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) in 1957, Türkiye has chosen to be a part of the world's prominent association dedicated to improving and ensuring standards for safety of navigation worldwide. The Republic of Türkiye has been one of the first National Members of IALA since 1958.

Over the years, Türkiye has been an active contributor to the promotion and realization of the objectives of IALA to foster safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels as an elected Council Member since 2006 and VTS Committee Chair from 2014 - 2018 for two terms.

Türkiye signed the Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation on 23 November 2021 and ratified the Convention on 3 July 2024.

Significant Geopolitical Location

Türkiye, located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, is surrounded by the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea with a coastline of 10.940 kilometres.

Turkish Straits, a unique system of waterways consisting of the Strait of Istanbul and the Strait of Çanakkale and the Sea of Marmara connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea with a total length of 164 nautical miles, are considered as one of the most strategical waterways of the world. The Turkish Straits serve as the main trading route linking the Black Sea littoral countries to the world markets.

The Turkish Straits are renowned as one of the riskiest and the busiest narrow international seaways connecting two continents. The Strait of Istanbul and the Strait of Çanakkale, each of them hosts vessel traffic on average 40.000 passages annually including dangerous oil and liquefied petroleum gas carriers. This gives us a unique opportunity to stay at the very centre of the world's maritime sector and closely follow-up sector dynamics.

Long-standing Experience in "Marine Aids to Navigation"

Türkiye has valuable and deep-rooted experience in coastal safety going back to the establishment of the shore-based rescue service stations on its coasts in 1856. Over 1700 nationwide marine aids to navigation in the region are operated, inspected and certified by the Directorate General of Coastal Safety (DGCS) and 41 historical lighthouses from the 19th century have been preserved as a national maritime heritage.

Currently, DGCS, acting as the national authority of AtoN and provides VTS, pilotage, towage, salvage, and marine communications services.

In order to ensure safety of navigation through the Turkish Straits, "Turkish Straits Vessel Traffic Services" (TSVTSs) system has been established and functioning effectively since 2003. The Vessel Traffic Services (VTSs) are also provided in the main ports of Türkiye in recent years.

All vessel traffic monitoring and management systems, including National Automatic Identification System (AIS) and National Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) are integrated to national "Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System", which is operational since 2019.

Türkiye develops, manufactures and uses marine aids to navigation devices and systems

As of 01.01.2010, ships outside the scope of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) have been equipped with AIS Class-B CS devices, which are produced entirely by national capabilities.

Türkiye's Long Distance Ship Identification and Tracking (LRIT) System was established with domestic facilities and integrated into the global LRIT system on 08.03.2010. In addition, LRIT data center service is provided by TURKSAT.

With the Aids to Navigation Monitoring System (SOTAS) developed by DGCS by using national resources, 386 (three hundred eighty-six) aids to navigation (AtoN) are monitored and controlled from a single center. AtoN failure information, voltage and current values of power system and light status can be monitored remotely, and aids to navigation information is sent to ships via AIS-AtoN devices. By means of the sensors on the AtoN, the information of the AIS-equipped marine vehicles can also be monitored. In addition, instant meteorological data is transmitted to ships via AIS-AtoN with 67 marine automatic meteorological observation stations deployed on fixed and floating AtoN, which are a joint work of DGCS and the General Directorate of Meteorology.

As of 2024 the marine traffic of the Turkish Straits is managed with a national system developed by a Turkish company, one of Türkiye's largest technology companies. In the project, the software, sensors and information infrastructure of the Turkish Straits Vessel Traffic Services (TSVTS) system were designed considering the national competencies and production capabilities in Türkiye. In the project, the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Software was also developed by a Turkish company with national capabilities.

The Vessel Traffic Service Centre (VTSC) equipped with modern technology, established and operated by DGCS in five regional centres including the Turkish Straits and Izmit, Izmir and Mersin. Full scale VTS are given to the participant vessels all over the sectors by over 250 well trained VTSOs.

The Main Search and Rescue Coordination Centre (MSRCC) Ankara is the contact point for search and rescue operations. 334 SAR operations were coordinated by MSRCC Ankara and 809 lives saved at sea in 2023.

Türkiye is associated with the COSPAS-SARSAT Programme as a ground segment provider as of June 11, 2005. The Turkish Mission Control Centre (TRMCC) assumed the responsibility for Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Georgia and Ukraine as her SAR Point of Contacts (SPOC's).

Turkish MEO (Medium Earth Orbit) System is constantly on service on six MEO channels. Furthermore, Türkiye participated in several international tests to contribute to the development of the future MEOSAR system. In this context, Türkiye is one of the four countries all over the world that installed the Beacon Simulator. Additionally, the COSPAS-SARSAT System Ankara MEOSAR Reference Beacon has been operational since December 2020.

Continuous Support for IALA

Since the beginning, Türkiye has actively involved in IALA Council and its committees' activities with its significant sector experience. Türkiye has hosted many IALA events, a Council meeting in 2012, and a back-to-back VTS Committee meeting and Symposium in the same year. Furthermore, Türkiye strongly supported IALA's endeavour to convert its status to an Intergovernmental Organization and proudly hosted the 3rd Preparatory Diplomatic Conference in March 2019 in Istanbul on the way to finalization of The Convention on the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation. In addition, the 80th Council Meeting of IALA was hosted by our country in Istanbul between 24-28 June 2024.

In line with the foregoing, the Government of the Republic of Türkiye believes that its re-election to the Council will further contribute to the efforts with a view to achieving the objectives of IALA.

We do have strong confidence in IALA Member States' support for Türkiye being re-elected for next term at IALA Council.



Mr. Mustafa BANKAOĞLU
Chairman of the Board of Directors and
Director General

Mr. Mustafa BANKAOĞLU was born in 1980 in Giresun.

In 2002, he graduated from Mechanical Engineering Department of Dokuz Eylül University.

In 2006, he achieved his master's degree in the Shipbuilding Engineering Department of Dokuz Eylül University.

He held the following positions sequentially:

2002 - 2012, Maritime Specialist at the Ship Survey Board, İzmir Regional Directorate of the Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs,

May 2012 - August 2012, at Datça Port Authority,

August 2012 - December 2013, at Fethiye Port Authority,

December 2013 - June 2018, Deputy Director at Istanbul Port Authority,

June 2018 - March 2019, Deputy Director at İzmir Port Authority.

On 06/03/2019, he was appointed as Acting Deputy Director General at the Directorate General of Coastal Safety.

With Presidential Decree No. 2019/183, published in the Official Gazette dated 06/07/2019 and numbered 30823, he was appointed as Deputy Director General and Member of the Board of Directors at the Directorate General of Coastal Safety.

With Presidential Decree No. 2023/382, published in the Official Gazette dated 11/08/2023 and numbered 32276, he was appointed as Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Directorate General of Coastal Safety.

He is married, with two children, and speaks English.