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**Mr Francis Zachariae**  
**Secretary-General**  
**International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation**  
10 rue des Gaudines  
78100 Saint Germain en Laye  
France

## DECLARATION OF COUNCIL CANDIDACY BY FINLAND

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 Government of Finland is presenting Finland 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 Finland's suitability for a position on the Council.

Should Finland be elected it will be represented at Council meetings by

Mr Simo Kerkelä, Head of Fairway Unit  
Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency  
e-mail: [simo.kerkela@ftia.fi](mailto:simo.kerkela@ftia.fi)  
phone: +358 29 534 3354

A statement setting out his suitability to represent Finland is attached.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Helsinki 2 December 2024

H.E. Elina Valtonen  
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Finland

# FINLAND

Candidate for IALA Council 2025-2027



Finland has participated in the work of IALA Council and IALA technical committees for several decades and has actively supported the transformation of IALA's status into the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation.

Finland greatly appreciates the work done by the Organization to the benefit of the maritime community and environmental protection, and is committed to actively participate also in the future.



The Finnish coastline is challenging to navigate due to archipelago areas, shallow waters, narrow fairways, and ice conditions during winter. At the same time, however, our country is heavily dependent on sea transport. We have 30 ports which are kept open all year round. These ports handle about 95% of all our foreign trade. Finland has about 10 500 km of coastal fairways and 9 900 km of inland fairways.

To facilitate safe navigation, we maintain 35 000 marine aids to navigation (lighthouses, buoys, and spar buoys). DGPS service covers coastal areas and inland fairways. All Finnish coastal areas and merchant inland fairways are covered by VTS to further enhance safety of navigation.

It is in our interest to contribute to development of harmonized Marine Aids to Navigation, including both enhancements to traditional AtoNs and introduction of new digital services, in order to ensure the conditions for safe and efficient vessel traffic and protection of environment.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**



### **Simo Kerkelä**

[simo.kerkela@ftia.fi](mailto:simo.kerkela@ftia.fi)

mobile +358 29 534 3354

Born on February 26th 1962 in Kemijärvi, Finland  
M.Sc. (Civil Engineer) 1990, University of Oulu, Finland  
Specialty Geotechnical Engineering

### **Brief Work History**

#### **Head of Fairway Unit, Finnish Transport Infrastructure Agency 1/2012-**

\* Responsible for Management of Coastal Waterways in Finland

#### **Head of Gulf of Finland Fairway Unit, Finnish Transport Agency 1/2010-12/2011**

\* Responsible for Management of Waterways in Gulf of Finland

#### **Head of Fairway Unit, Finnish Maritime Administration 11/2000-12/2010**

#### **Project Manager, Geotek Ltd. 1996-10/2000**

\* Responsible for Geotechnical and Waterway planning projects

#### **Project Engineer, Geotek Ltd. 1991-1995**

\* Geotechnical and Waterway planning projects