



**LEPL MARITIME TRANSPORT
AGENCY OF GEORGIA**

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To the Council of International Organization for Marine Aids to
Navigation (IALA)
Copy: Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of
Georgia;
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Dear Members of the IALA Council,

In response to Circular Letter IGO 2025/14, dated 15 September 2025, regarding the Invitation to host the World Marine Aids to Navigation (WAtON) Day main event 2026, the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia is pleased to submit its formal expression of interest and intent to host this distinguished event in Batumi, Georgia.

Georgia, situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, has a long-standing maritime tradition that has played a vital role in its economic and cultural development. The Black Sea coast, and particularly the city of Batumi, has historically served as a gateway for trade, navigation, and international cooperation. Today, Batumi continues to embody this maritime legacy through its dynamic port, advanced infrastructure, and growing role as a regional centre for maritime affairs. The city combines a rich maritime heritage with contemporary facilities, excellent connectivity, and renowned hospitality. Its location on the eastern shore of the Black Sea provides an inspiring setting that reflects Georgia's enduring connection to the sea and its commitment to the advancement of maritime safety and navigation.

The Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia possesses extensive experience in managing and regulating maritime affairs, including port operations, navigation safety and maritime education. Agency has been actively working to ensure its effective integration into the hydrographic community, broadening its expertise in safety of navigation, hydrographic surveying, marine charting, and oceanographic activities. These efforts have significantly enhanced Georgia's technical capabilities and strengthened its contribution to international maritime cooperation.

We hold the hydrographic and AtoN communities in the highest regard and fully recognize the vital contribution of IALA as a platform that unites nations and professionals in their shared mission to improve global navigation safety. In full alignment with the theme of WAtON Day 2026 - "Marine Aids to Navigation for a Successful Voyage and a Sustainable Planet" - Georgia proudly embraces these collective international efforts, recognizing that sustainable navigation is inseparable from environmental stewardship and global cooperation. The Maritime Transport Agency remains deeply committed to advancing IALA's vision of harmonized and sustainable maritime navigation systems that contribute not only to the safety of seafarers but also to the protection of our shared marine environment.

With its proven capacity for organizing international events and its strong commitment to the objectives of IALA, the Maritime Transport Agency stands ready to ensure the successful hosting of WAtON Day 2026. We are confident that this event in Batumi will provide a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and the promotion of innovation in aids to navigation.

We respectfully submit this letter for the Council's consideration and would be pleased to provide any additional information required in support of our proposal.

Your sincerely,

Director

SIGNED/SEALED
ELECTRONICALLY 

Ivane Abashidze