

**IALA COUNCIL
56th Session**

**December 9 - 13, 2013
Goa
India**

Agenda item 11 – OTHER IALA GROUPS

11.2 Maritime Cooperation Steering Group

11.2-1 Status Report

Note by the Secretariat

1 SUMMARY

Captain Roger Barker provides a report on the latest developments concerning the Marine Cooperation Forum.

2 ACTION REQUESTED

The Council is requested to Note the Report, and Consider direction to the Steering Group.

Status Report - Maritime Co-Operation Forum

With regard to the last note to Council in April 2013 regarding the proposed Maritime Co-Operation Forum which had been provisionally planned to be held at IALA headquarters on 28th / 29th October, a meeting of the Steering Committee was held on 24th September to assess the progress of the proposed event.

Attendees at this telephone meeting were Captain Scott Smith, Francis Zachariae, Mike Card and Roger Barker.

The committee were made aware of the responses to the invitation to the planned Forum and that unfortunately only 5 organisations had indicated that they would definitely attend. After some discussion it was agreed the underlying principles for arranging the Forum would not be achieved with such a small attendance and the decision was taken to postpone the event.

Very useful input was subsequently received from the Netherlands, Pieter Paap, whose preferred option was also to postpone the event, with suggestions on the way ahead.

All potential participants to the Forum in October were advised of the decision.

General discussion and correspondence with several organisations has indicated that an event which could bring together representatives who would rarely sit at the same table and where future areas for improved Maritime Co-Operation could be explored would be useful. The problem is, of course, that dates which would be acceptable when bringing together such diverse organisations are difficult to achieve.

The steering group recognised the difficulties with dates but the consensus was that we should still strive to re-organize and event in 2014, perhaps in the latter part of the year.

Other initiatives to support the event were considered and the Deputy Secretary General agreed to discuss with Secretary General other opportunities to discuss the proposals with as wider group of possible participants as possible.

Council is asked to consider the suggestion to continue with the plans for a Maritime Co-Operation Forum and the proposal for an event in Autumn 2014.

R.H.Barker
Chairman
Maritime Co-operation Steering Committee
November 2013