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Agenda item 12 – INTERNATIONAL

12.5 ACCSEAS Project

12.5.1 Summary report of the completed project

Note by the Secretariat

1 SOURCE

The following notes were provided to the Secretariat by Dr Alwyn Williams, Project Manager of the now-completed e-navigation test bed project.

2 SUMMARY REPORT

ACCSEAS, a three-year part EU-funded project, ended in February 2015 having successfully demonstrated the potential for e-Navigation in the North Sea Region. With 11 partners from 6 countries, the project was able to show that transnational co-operation is possible to improve maritime navigation in this important region for transportation within Europe.

Starting with a review of the present and future situation with regards to the use of the sea space, it quickly became clear that the existing sea routes were being squeezed to allow more room for energy extraction (e.g. wind farms). At the same time, an increase in traffic and vessels sizes is predicted, meaning that the complex nature of navigating the North Sea will become more problematic if solutions are not presented in time to mitigate the risks.

Using solutions based on Resilient Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT), and effective e-Navigation services, ACCSEAS has been able to show how they can improve the efficiency, accessibility and safety of navigation in the North Sea Region. Innovative solutions include the use of ranging-mode DGPS service, absolute radar positioning, “no-go” area, route exchange and integrated Maritime Safety Information services. Information services are harmonised through the use of the Maritime Cloud – a secure, standardised means of accessing data by the mariner and bridge systems. The demonstrations also use existing services such as eLoran, and show that seamless transition between positioning sources is possible with the Multi-Source Position Receiver developed within the project.

The project shows that there is much more work to be done, but the principle and the advantages of using e-Navigation is made clear, and that Europe is leading the way for harmonised information and navigation systems onboard vessels.

3 ACTION

The Council is invited to Note.