

Briefing Note to ITU-R WP 5B Representatives – digital maritime communications

1. BACKGROUND

IALA, through the work of the experts of the Communications Working Group of the IALA ENAV Committee, continues to advance its work to create the VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) to provide the first world-wide standard communication channel to support e-Navigation. In addition, IALA continues to provide input on AIS developments, including technical clarifications for ITU-R M.1371.

At the recent meeting of the IALA Committee documents were reviewed and agreed for forwarding to the next ITU WP 5B meeting, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 06-17 November, 2017.

This briefing note is to bring your attention to the documents in advance of the meeting.

2. DOCUMENTS FOR WP5B – NOVEMBER 2017 MEETING

IALA have prepared the following documents for consideration by ITU-R WP5B:

1. Liaison note on the Identification and Categorization of Autonomous Maritime Radio Devices (AMRD) operating in the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz.

Comments: This document notes the work of ITU-R WP 5B on this item, and the related request from ITU regarding innovative solutions to mark Mobile AtoN (MATON). This provides information on the work of IALA towards developing new guidance for the marking and use of mobile aids to navigation.

Desired outcome: To highlight the work of IALA on similar matters, and request that IALA be kept informed of developments regarding AMRDs. Note the possibility of developing a proposed new AIS message to address MATON, which could be discussed once the IALA recommendation and guideline on AMRD, including MATON, is completed and agreed.

2. Liaison note on the future revision of ITU Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5

Comments: Following the liaison from IALA at the November 2016 ITU WP5B meeting, ITU-R M.1371-5 is available for amendment. IALA has identified proposed editorial and technical changes to ITU-R M.1371-5, for review at the ITU WP5B November 2017 meeting.

Desired outcome: That the proposed changes to ITU-R M.1371-5 be agreed at ITU WP5B, and implemented in the next editions of ITU-R M.1371.

3. Liaison note – working document towards a preliminary draft new report (PDNR) ITU-R M.[VDES-SAT].

Comments: The World Radio Conference 2015 (WRC-15) approved the designation of frequencies for the terrestrial service component of VDES (VDE-TER) but expressed concerns about the potential conflict between the satellite service component of VDES (VDE-SAT) and other space surveillance systems, such as radar. The decision to designate frequencies for VDE-SAT was deferred until WRC-19, subject to further studies including consideration of other optional frequency selections. IALA provided an update on the studies for VDE-SAT to ITU WP5B, November 2016. Further concerns were raised by ITU WP5B. All concerns raised during the ITU WP5B meeting have been taken into account and carefully studied by IALA. The document being provided to ITU WP5B (November 2017 meeting) includes proposed additions and modifications to the working document which addresses these concerns. Some administrations have raised concerns against VDE-SAT in ITU WP5B. However, it is the position of the experts of the Communications Working Group of the IALA ENAV Committee that these concerns are based on incorrect assumptions, and are therefore not valid.

Desired outcome: Promote further the discussion on the satellite component of the VDES, noting that, for VDES to be truly global, the satellite link is required. Review and support the IALA proposed modifications identified in the revised PDNR ITU-R M.[VDE-SAT].



C65-11.1.2.2

3. ACTION REQUESTED

Delegates to ITU-R WP 5B are requested to take note of the work of IALA on digital maritime radio communications and, where possible, support the papers through interventions. In addition, experts in digital radio communications are invited to participate in the work of IALA on VDES.