

IALA COUNCIL 71st session



3 - 4 June 2020
Video conference

8 – STRATEGY AND POLICY

8.5 – Impact of MASS on VTS

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

The 69th and 70th IALA Council meetings discussed the fast developing of MASS in the maritime domain and agreed that IALA should prepare for the introduction of MASS in the working domain of IALA.

On the proposal of The Netherlands, Council agreed that a paper should be prepared on the impact(s) of MASS on VTS, for consideration by the Council Strategy Drafting Group and the Council.

As Input paper C71-8.5.1, Council will find the paper on the impact of MASS on VTS prepared by the Netherlands. The paper starts with a summary of the adaption of MASS in IMO. After that, a reference is made to how MASS fits with the goals and strategies of IALA's Strategic Vision. The position on MASS in the document "Position on the development of Marine Aids to Navigation (AtoN) services" is mentioned, and a description is made of how MASS is embedded in the current work programme of the IALA technical committees.

The workshop on MASS infrastructure in Japan, the vision of the Port of Rotterdam on MASS in a VTS area and the draft scoping exercise of China MSA are used as substantiation for the preliminary discussion of the impact of MASS on VTS.

Furthermore, it should be mentioned that around the world, several Flag States are already experimenting with MASS trials and set conditions for these trials within their area of authority. Frontrunning ports and countries already seek cooperation in MASS developments. To bring this development a step further, the paper states that there is a need for international standards and coordination of MASS trials in VTS and coastal areas.

The paper gives 6 recommendations for further work in IALA.

DISCUSSION

It is clear that IALA – as the main international organisation for the Coastal States responsibilities – will play an important role for a successful world-wide harmonised implementation of MASS.

The impact of MASS on the work of IALA is already addressed in the Strategic Vision, the Position on AtoN Services paper and in the work programme of the Committees, but it is obvious that further and more concrete guidance is needed.

The paper is, therefore, a very valuable input for our further work within IALA on the impact of MASS on VTS specifically, but also on the impact on Marine Aids to Navigation in general.

The six recommendations are already to a certain extent incorporated in the existing plans for the Committees, workshops etc., but needs to be further analysed and described.

It is recommended to send the paper to the Committees and with this input to Policy Advisory Group (PAP) as the main coordination body. PAP will then develop a paper, based on the proposal from The Netherlands, for further discussion and decision by the Council Strategy drafting Group and Council 72 in December 2020.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

The impact of MASS on VTS by the Netherlands (C71-8.5.1)

THE COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO

Consider the paper C71-8.5.1 and **agree** to send the paper to the Committees and PAP for further analysis and recommendations to Council 72.