

Status on assistance to Ukraine

1. BACKGROUND

At its 75th session, the Council agreed to the establishment of a “Disaster Recovery Fund” to be placed within the World-Wide Academy and should be entirely funded by sponsorships.

Australia (AMSA) decided to provide a sponsorship of AUS\$ 50.000 to the fund, aimed at assisting Ukraine to recover from its current situation. This enables enable the Academy to take an active role in assisting Ukraine as much as possible.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT

At C75, the Secretary-General informed about the action taken by the Secretariat:

Immediately after the Russian invasion of Ukraine he wrote a letter to our National member of Ukraine, the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine (SHSU), expressing our sympathies with the SHSU staff, their families, and the people of Ukraine. SHSU acknowledged receipt of this letter on 11 March 2022.

Shortly after he issued a message to the Committee Chairs and a few members who asked, covering the policy regarding participation in future meetings. This was of course cleared with the President and Vice President.

In summary, it was stated that IALA is secular and non-political and that IALA will of course follow French and international rules related to specific countries, but as a main rule, IALA welcomes members to technical meetings and activities as normal. Members are of course expected to follow the rules in their country of origin, and IALA normally do not interfere with this.

On 29 April 2022, SHSU issued a request for assistance to IALA with a list of urgent needs and a request for financial help with the annual membership contribution.

As requested, the annual membership fee for 2022 for SHSU has been waived.

SHSU also requested two IWRAP licenses and after negotiation with the software development company this was made possible for a two-year period.

The request from SHSU was coordinated with IHO and distributed to the members by email.

On 10 May 2022, IALA received a letter from the State Service for Maritime and River Transport of Ukraine with a request to deprive the membership and to ban the participants from the Russian Federation.

The letter was answered on 19 May 2022 in very general terms.

3. FURTHER ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE WWA

Following an internal discussion on possible actions towards Ukraine, it was concluded that the next step had to be to establish a mechanism for having a long-term dialogue with the SHSU, our national member in Ukraine.

Contact was made to Mr. Viktor Belinskyi, Head of the SSHU European Integration and Public Authorities Relations Division, who arranged for an inaugural meeting with their team of aids to navigation managers in Kiev and Odessa.



It was agreed to plan weekly dialogue meetings for the foreseeable future.

SHSU informed that they only can assess the situation in the Ukraine controlled western part of the Black Sea, and they had registered about 20 floating aids that had been destroyed so-far.

They also reported that the grain transport corridor is operational and that they mark these routes with aids to navigation in accordance with instructions from their navy. Grain is currently being shipped from three of their ports in the western part of the Black Sea.

In terms of immediate needs, SHSU mentioned, for instance the need for buoy lanterns and buoy batteries.

It turned out that negotiations were already underway with the UKHO as well as MSM and SABIK who both are members of IALA.

The UKHO have decided to provide a support package worth about £1.6 million over a few years, including various hydrographic equipment and the buoy batteries requested by the SHSU.

The Secretary-General and the Dean visited UKHO in October and the UKHO could confirm that the support package is a reality.

MSM had offered to provide one buoy free of charge but were having problems finding a way to transport it to Ukraine and the dialogue had come to a halt.

The Dean met with the International Sales Director at MSM to discuss the way forward and helped re-establish the dialogue. This will be followed up in due course.

SABIK had offered to provide 100 lanterns free of charge. The dialogue between SABIK and SHSU had also come to a halt about 4 weeks earlier, and SHSU asked the Academy to help to re-establish this dialogue.

During ENG16, the Dean met with a SABIK representative which explained that shortage of certain electronic components worldwide had slowed down their progress. Subsequently, the Dean met with the Managing Director, Lars Mansner, who restated that SABIK is 100% committed to supply these lanterns as soon as possible. It is expected that the delivery will take place before the end of the year.

On their list of needs, the SHSU had mentioned the refurbishment of the lighthouse on Zmiinyi Island (Snake Island). The island is inaccessible for the time being due to mines, but based on available satellite images, the AtoN team believes that the lighthouse structure and associated dwellings have been destroyed. SHSU stressed the heritage and cultural value of the site and is determined to re-establish the site when possible.

4. THE ROLE OF THE WORLD-WIDE ACADEMY

In summary, the Academy is currently undertaken a facilitating role, helping donors to better understand the needs of Ukraine as well as reassuring and informing the beneficiaries in Ukraine on the status of aid projects stemming from our members and other organizations with which we may have good relations.

5. ACTION REQUESTED

1. The Council is requested to note the progress made with assisting Ukraine in their times of difficulty.
2. Council members are encouraged to inform the Academy of any ongoing or planned safety of navigation related assistance being rendered to Ukraine.