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Briefing Note to ITU-R WP 5B Representatives Nov 2016 – Digital Maritime Communications

Project no.	636329
Project acronym:	EfficienSea2
	EFFICIENSEA2 – efficient, safe and sustainable traffic at sea

Funding scheme:	Innovation Action (IA)
Start date of project:	1 May 2015
End date of project:	30 April 2018
Duration:	36 months

Due date of deliverable:	30.10.2016
Actual submission date:	19.10.2016

Organisation in charge of deliverable:	IALA

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 ENAV Committee a number of documents related to the work of ITU were reviewed and agreed for forwarding to the next meeting of the ITU-R WP5B, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 07-18 November, 2016.

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

2. DOCUMENTS FOR WP5B

IALA have prepared the following documents for consideration by ITU-R WP5B at the November 2016 meeting:

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 highlights the need to ensure differentiation between AMRD that influence safety of navigation and those that are more general in nature. The document notes the work of IALA on a new guideline 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.

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

    Comments: IALA received a liaison note from the IEC TC 80 WG15 requesting technical clarifications related to AIS, and suggesting consequential revisions to ITU-R M.1371-5. IALA notes some technical aspects that need to be addressed, and indicates that IALA is preparing appropriate text for the revision.

    Desired outcome: That ITU-R WP5B keep the revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1371-5 open until a comprehensive technical proposal for consideration by WP 5B is complete.

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

    Comments: World Radio Conference 2015 (WRC-15) approved the designation of frequencies for the terrestrial service component of VDES (VDE-TER). There were concerns expressed at WRC-15 concerning the potential conflict between the satellite service component of VDES (VDE-SAT) and other space surveillance systems such as radar and 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 is providing an update on this work.

    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.

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, as appropriate. In addition, experts in digital radio communications are invited to participate in the work of IALA on VDES, including the satellite downlink component.