

Agenda item 7 IALA TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES**7.2 ENAV*****7.2.1 Liaison with ITU for e-Navigation Communications*****Note by the Secretariat****1. Summary**

The Secretariat advises that on about 13 October 2014 it expects to seek email approval by Council, with short notice, of a Liaison Note to ITU-R WP5B.

2. Background

IALA created the concept of VDES (VHF Data Exchange System) for data communications in e-Navigation. This is being developed by the ENAV Committee and is fast becoming recognised by the IMO CG on e-Navigation, and others.

A key objective is to have the necessary frequency allocations for VDES made at the 2015 World Radio Conference WRC2015. To this end, IALA has worked in ITU-R WP5B, with the support of IALA member nations, to prepare draft text for the WRC2015.

For the May 2014 meeting of ITU-R WP5B it was not possible for IALA to submit technical input, even though draft input had been prepared at the April 2014 inter-sessional meeting of the ENAV Committee's Communications Working Group. This was because there was neither an ENAV Committee meeting nor an IALA Council session for approval of the draft Liaison Note before the ITU submission date. IALA had to rely on France and USA to submit the IALA technical information to the May 2014 WP5B meeting.

The October 2014 meeting of ITU-R WP5B is the last opportunity to submit technical input to ITU before WRC2015.

3. Liaison Note from IALA to ITU-R WP5B for its October 2014 meeting

The ENAV Committee Chair plans to have his Committee agree IALA's input to the October 2014 ITU-R WP5B meeting on Monday 13 October 2014. The IALA Secretariat will then email this draft Liaison Note to Council seeking comments by Saturday 18 October. If the draft Liaison Note is approved by Council, the Secretariat will convey it to ITU on Sunday 19 October, before the cut-off date of Monday 20 October.

Because of the tight timing, the Secretariat plans to provide a draft of this Liaison Note to Council for its 59th Session, expected to be in September 2014.

It is possible that the ENAV Committee may make changes to this draft before its referral to Council on October 13, 2014, but the ENAV Chair will endeavour to avoid this happening.

4. Action

Council is requested to Note.