

IALA COUNCIL
61st session

8-11 December, 2015
Dakar
Senegal

Agenda item 13 – International

13.4.1 FERNS

13.4.1.1 - 24th Session of the FERNS Council

Note by the Secretariat

1. Executive Summary

This document provides a summary of the key matters discussed during the 24th session of the FERNS Council. The Report of the 24th session of the FERNS Council is provided as a separate input document.

2. General

The FERNS Council met in Moscow on 2015-10-27 to 30. The Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting was held on 2015-10-26.

IALA was represented at both meetings by the Deputy Secretary-General and the Finance and Administration Manager.

Refer to the Report of FERNS 24 for details

3. FERNS Agreement

The FERNS Agreement draft amendment, to take account of Japan's exit as Member, was at last finalised (after some years of discussion). Korea, as hosting Party from 31 October 2015, will now take the necessary action with a view to the draft amended Agreement entering into force. When this action is completed the Parties to the Agreement will become China, Korea, and Russia.

The FERNS Council will take the necessary steps to have Japan, UK, India, and Kazakhstan become Observers at FERNS, and to be able to participate as Observers at FERNS 25, subject to receipt of applications from those countries.

The FERNS (technical) Operating Guidelines were revised and entered into force on 2015-10-30

4. eLoran standards creation

The FERNS Parties appear keen for IALA to be involved in helping to finalise standards for broadcast eLoran/eChayka signals. One approach discussed in the margins of the meeting way would be for FERNS to establish a working group, including FERNS member Parties, IALA, and UK, and for IALA to endorse the resulting technical documents, ideally by publishing them as IALA Recommendations.

The Secretariat is considering the best course of action and will include this as a discussion topic for PAP31.

5. Arctic navigation and the Northern Sea Route

Russia is currently working on integrated satellite-terrestrial navigation receivers, and also on their use in polar areas. Russia indicated that it would like to encourage international cooperation, possibly private-public-partnership (PPP) to develop arctic terrestrial radionavigation systems for the Northern Sea Route, the idea being to add new Chayka/eChayka stations to cover the part of the Route with no Chayka/Loran service at present.

6. Action requested from Council

The Council is invited to:

- Note this information
- Note the report of FERNS24 as provided in input paper 13.4.1.2.