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 Wasserstraßen- und  
Schifffahrtsverwaltung  
des Bundes

**Generaldirektion Wasserstraßen und Schifffahrt**  
Ulrich-von-Hassell-Straße 76 · 53123 Bonn

 IALA-AISM  
10 rue des Gaudines  
78100  
St Germain en Laye  
France

**Generaldirektion  
Wasserstraßen und  
Schifffahrt**  
Ulrich-von-Hassell-Straße 76  
53123 Bonn

**Ihr Zeichen**
**Mein Zeichen**
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**Christiuan FORST**  
Telefon +49 (0)431 33945700

 Zentrale +49 (0)228 42968-0  
gdws@wsv.bund.de  
www.wsv.de

## IALA Council Meeting 71

### Agenda Item 7

#### Corona pandemic

As all other countries in the world Germany was affected by the Corona pandemic and went into lockdown for several weeks. During this extraordinary time the responsible Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency managed to continue the operation of AtoN and VTS almost without any restrictions to the service. With the exception of some locks at inland waterways facing some reduction of service hours all other operational services continued to work throughout the shutdown period. Thanks to our fantastic staff and an excellent cooperation with all relevant stakeholders in shipping and logistics it was possible to maintain the operation of our AtoN and VTS-services on our waterways and the approaches to our ports throughout the lockdown period and beyond.

#### Cyber Security

One of the German VTS-centre was affected by a cyber attack, most likely selective and specifically targeted at this VTS-centre. Immediate measures were taken. The affected system was disconnected from the network and replaced by a spare system. The VTS centre continued its operational service with only small restrictions. A couple of hours later the VTS centre went back to full operational capability. The final assessment of the attack showed only minor technical damage to the system. Further technical and operational measures were taken afterwards to prevent any future attacks.

#### Plastic buoys

The Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency successfully completed the testing of a prototype plastic buoy in the Baltic Sea. Some minor improvements will be applied before the final production of 400 buoys can begin.

#### Coordination of International Relations in the Federal Waterways and Shipping Agency

At the beginning of 2020 a new position was created within the Agency to help with the coordination of its international relations and responsibilities including IALA and other international organisations and projects both in the maritime world and relevant for inland waterways. Dr. Christina Schneider, the current chair of IALA's Legal Advisory Panel, was tasked to take over the position.

Christian FORST  
IALA Councillor, Germany