



90th Anniversary
CCIR/ITU-R Study Groups
(1927-2017)

**Director of Radiocommunication
Bureau (BR)**

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Subject: **IALA Preparatory Diplomatic Conference, Paris, 18 – 19 April 2017**

Ref.: **Your electronic message of 10 April 2017**

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for inviting the ITU to the Preparatory Diplomatic Conference on IALA future legal status that will take place in Paris on 18-19 April 2017.

Unfortunately, due to previous commitments it is not possible for us to attend this important meeting. Nevertheless, I would like to emphasize that our organizations have had a long history of collaboration since IALA's foundation in 1957. It started with the cooperation on maritime radio beacons and hyperbolic radio positioning systems, continued with joint efforts on the development of automatic identification systems and is currently focusing on advancement of the VHF data exchange systems and electronic navigation.

IALA actively participates in the work of the ITU-R study groups dealing with maritime communications and navigation and provides valuable technical advice on maritime issues during preparations to World Radiocommunication Conferences, which is very much appreciated by the maritime community.

I wish you every success with the Conference and the future development of your organization. Let me express confidence that your decision concerning a future legal status of your organization will allow strengthening your position and make our cooperation closer and mutually beneficial.

Yours faithfully,

François Rancy

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