



Ministry of Infrastructure and the  
Environment

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International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and  
Lighthouse Authorities (IALA)  
Mr F. Zachariae, Secretary-General  
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78100 Saint Germain en Laye  
France

**Bestuurskern**  
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Date 18 November 2015  
Subject IALA Conference 2020: Offer from the Netherlands

**Our reference**

IENM/BSK-2015/230649

Dear Members of the IALA Council,

Dear Secretary-General of IALA, Mr Francis Zachariae,

It is with great pleasure that I herewith can inform you that the Netherlands offers the IALA organization to host the 14<sup>th</sup> IALA VTS Symposium in 2020.

The Netherlands is one of the founders of IALA, and has been strongly linked with and involved in it since 1957. It was a Council Member with a short interval from 1957 until now, held the Presidency of IALA from 1957 to 1960 and from 1990 to 1994. It organized and hosted the XIIth IALA Conference. It has been a source of much expertise and experience in the various IALA Committees and the home of some important Industrial and Associate Members.

The Netherlands is a land of water. A country with a rich maritime history and one that still has a flourishing maritime industry whose presence can still clearly be felt around the world. The Netherlands is a maritime nation. A flag state, a port state and a coastal state. It has a medium-sized fleet flying the Dutch flag.

The Netherlands is a land of safe and efficient shipping. Many measures have been taken in accordance with IALA's Recommendations and Guidelines to ensure that the extensive shipping within, from, to and past the Netherlands is safe and efficient. Some of these measures are traditional, others are modern and innovative: lighthouses, buoys and beacons, as well as state-of-the-art vessel traffic services, communication-, navigation- and information systems/networks and e-navigation related solutions.

It has Rotterdam and Amsterdam as large maritime ports, with over 100,000 incoming and outgoing ship movements annually. It has an important network of inland waterways that see hundreds of thousands of ship movements each year. Due to its location on the North Sea, with its busy shipping lanes, there are also some 250,000 routed ship movements annually.

Inspired by previous discussions in Council and with the Secretary-General of IALA - taking into account that in the year 2020 considerable work has been done following the now adopted IALA Strategy for the delivery of VTS in a rapidly



changing maritime domain, as well as the ongoing further development and implementation of e-Navigation - a combined IALA VTS/e-Navigation Symposium 2020 could be considered, providing an excellent and feasible format. The Netherlands has traditionally been a hospitable nation with an open mind and a global orientation. Rotterdam is a maritime city par excellence.

Therefore we will be honored to invite IALA's members and other interested parties to attend the 14th IALA Symposium in the city of Rotterdam in May 2020.

**Bestuurskern**  
Dir. Maritieme Zaken  
Afd. Zeehavens

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18 November 2015

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Yours sincerely,

THE DIRECTOR OF MARITIME AFFAIRS,

Mrs. B.C.M. Gijsbers