

COUNCIL  
116th session  
Agenda item 8

C 116/8  
11 May 2016  
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## CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE FACILITATION COMMITTEE

### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on the outcome of the fortieth session of the Facilitation Committee
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	1.1, 1.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.0, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 8.0, 14.0
<i>High-level action:</i>	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.3.3, 3.4.1, 3.5.1, 4.0.1, 4.0.2, 4.0.3, 4.0.5, 5.1.2, 5.2.1, 6.1.1, 8.0.1, 8.0.2, 8.0.3, 14.0.1
<i>Output:</i>	1.1.1.1, 1.1.2.1, 1.3.3.1, 3.4.1.1, 3.5.1.1, 3.5.1.2, 4.0.1.3, 4.0.2.1, 4.0.3.1, 4.0.5.1, 5.1.2.2, 5.1.2.3, 5.2.1.18, 6.1.1.2, 8.0.1.1, 8.0.2.1, 8.0.3.1, 8.0.3.2, 14.0.1.1
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 15
<i>Related document:</i>	FAL 40/19

#### Introduction

1 The report of the fortieth session of the Facilitation Committee (FAL 40/19) is submitted to the 116th session of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 49(b) of the IMO Convention.

2 The session was held from 4 to 8 April 2016 under the chairmanship of Mr. Yuri Melenas (Russian Federation); the Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Marina Angsell (Sweden), was also present. The session was attended by 75 Member States, one Associate Member, one United Nations specialized agency, three intergovernmental organizations and 26 non-governmental organizations in consultative status.

3 The report of FAL 40 (document FAL 40/19) has been circulated to all IMO Member Governments. Decisions of the Committee of interest to the Council are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

### **Approval of amendments to the annex of the FAL Convention**

4 The Committee, on 8 April 2016, unanimously adopted, by resolution FAL.12(40), and in accordance with article VII(2)(a) of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic 1965, as amended (the Convention), amendments to the Annex of the FAL Convention.

5 The Committee also unanimously decided that the said amendments should enter into force, in accordance with article VII(2)(b) on 1 January 2018, unless, prior to 1 October 2017, at least one-third of the Contracting Governments have notified the Secretary-General in writing that they do not accept the amendments.

### **Application of the Committee's Guidelines**

6 The Committee reviewed the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the FAL Committee, and agreed to:

- .1 include mandatory language in order to align with the document on Application of the Strategic Plan and the High-level Action Plan of the Organization adopted by resolution A.1099(29);
- .2 delete the reference of the word "guidelines" throughout the text;
- .3 approve FAL.3/Circ.211 on "Organization and method of work of the Facilitation Committee" accordingly; and
- .4 amend the title of the agenda item on "Application of the Committee's Guidelines" to "Application of the Committee's procedures on Organization and method of work", to be consistent with the above-mentioned decision.

### **Work Programme**

#### ***Proposals for meeting weeks for the biennium 2018-2019***

7 The Committee, in order to comply with the IMO Convention, and to develop and achieve momentum of the work of the Committee, agreed to reverse the decision adopted by FAL 37 on the frequency of FAL sessions, and to meet in future in regular sessions once a year.

8 The Committee agreed further to reduce the meeting days of the Committee to 4 days and 8 associated interpretation sessions. This decision would be applicable to FAL 41 and subsequent sessions of the Committee, and the duration of the sessions would be reviewed periodically taking into account the workload of the agenda.

9 The Committee, with a view to enabling the Secretary-General to prepare relevant budgetary proposals for the biennium 2018-2019 for consideration by the thirtieth regular session of the Assembly, agreed to hold one meeting week during 2018 and one meeting week during 2019 (4 days and 8 associated interpretation sessions for each session).

#### ***Status of outputs for the 2016-2017 biennium***

10 The Committee invited the Council to note the biennial status report of the Facilitation Committee.

### ***Post-biennial agenda of the Committee***

11 The Committee invited the Council to note the updated post-biennial agenda of the Facilitation Committee.

### ***Development of a new Strategic Framework for the Organization for 2018-2023***

12 The Committee noted that the Secretariat will submit to FAL 41 a document with the revised outputs of the Committee in line with the new strategic framework, for the Committee's consideration and appropriate action. The outcome of this revision will be submitted to C 118.

### **Any other business**

#### ***Review of Administrative requirements in mandatory instruments***

13 The Committee noted that although the nine requirements under the Committee's purview, compiled by the Secretariat (FAL 40/17/1), related to facilitation-related IMO instruments had not been identified by stakeholders as an administrative burden specifically, they had been found by the SG-RAR to be similar to requirements that were deemed to be administrative burdens in relation to conventions under the purview of other committees, and therefore could benefit from a review by the FAL Committee; and in particular:

- .1 instructed the Secretariat to take into account the decisions of the twenty-eighth session of the Assembly concerning reporting through GISIS (resolution A.1074(28)) and the decisions by the twenty-ninth session of the Assembly related to the Organization's continued efforts to reduce administrative burdens, and to analyse this information with respect to feasibility, costs, benefits and likelihood of being used. The Committee agreed to take the outcomes of the related discussions of MEPC 69 and MSC 96 into account at FAL 41;
- .2 invited Member States to submit proposals to FAL 41; and
- .3 considered the proposal made by the Secretariat to establish a joint MSC/MEPC/FAL working group during FAL 41 to consider the requirements and propose common solutions. The Committee noted that the intent behind the Secretariat's proposal was to have a coordinated and holistic approach with the outputs from all technical committees and to take into account that neither MSC nor MEPC have any free working groups to undertake this work. However, the Committee expressed doubts on how feasible a joint working group would be, and did not support the proposal.

#### **Recommendations and guidelines adopted by the Committee**

14 The Committee approved the following circulars:

- .1 *Guidelines for the use of electronic certificates (FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2);*
- .2 *Guidelines on minimum training and education for mooring personnel (FAL.6/Circ.11/Rev.1); and*
- .3 *Application of the Strategic Plan and the High-level Action Plan of the Organization (FAL.3/Circ.211).*

### Action requested of the Council

- 15 The Council is invited to<sup>1</sup>:
- .1 consider the report of the fortieth session of the Facilitation Committee and, in accordance with Article 21(b) of the IMO Convention, transmit it, with its comments and recommendations, to the thirtieth session of the Assembly (paragraphs 1.1 to 19.1);
  - .2 note the adoption of the amendments to the FAL Convention, which are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2018 (section 4 and annex 1);
  - .3 note the Committee's decisions on the review of the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the FAL Committee, and the approval of the document on the "*Organization and method of work of the Facilitation Committee*", by circular FAL.3/Circ.211 (section 14);
  - 4 note the Committee's decision to reverse the decision adopted by FAL 37 on the frequency of FAL sessions, and to meet, in the future, in regular sessions once a year (paragraphs 15.6 to 15.8);
  - .5 note the Committee's decision to reduce the meeting days of the Committee to 4 days and 8 associated interpretation sessions, applicable to FAL 41 and subsequent sessions of the Committee; the duration of the sessions would be reviewed periodically taking into account the workload of the agenda (paragraph 15.9);
  - .6 note the Committee's decision to approve to hold one meeting week during 2018 and one meeting week during 2019 (4 days and 8 associated interpretation sessions for each session) (paragraph 15.10);
  - .7 note the biennial status report of the Facilitation Committee (paragraphs 15.12 to 15.14, and annex 4);
  - .8 note the updated post-biennial agenda of the Facilitation Committee (paragraphs 15.15 to 15.16, and annex 5).
  - .9 note the Committee's decision taken in regard to development of a new Strategic Framework for the Organization for 2018-2023 (paragraph 15.18);
  - .10 note the Committee's decisions taken in regard to the review of administrative requirements in mandatory instruments (paragraphs 17.1 to 17.8); and
  - .11 note the circulars approved by the Committee (paragraph 6.18, and FAL.5/Circ.39/Rev.2; paragraph 10.10, and FAL.6/Circ.11/Rev.1; and paragraph 14.5, and FAL.3/Circ.211).

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<sup>1</sup> References hereunder refer to sections and paragraphs of, and annexes to, the report of FAL 40 (document FAL 40/19).