



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 8 December 2015  
(OR. en)

14850/15  
ADD 1

LIMITE

MAR 167  
OMI 19

**"I" ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

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No. Cion doc.: 14309/15 MAR 152 OMI 9  
No. prev. doc.: 14317/15 MAR 153 OMI 10

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Subject: IMO – Draft Union submission to be submitted to the 3rd session of the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications, Search and Rescue (NCSR 3) of the IMO in London from 29 February – 4 March 2016 concerning a report on the audit process of the International Long-Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT) Data Exchange  
- *Approval*  
- *Statement by the Commission*

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Delegations will find attached a statement by the Commission to the minutes of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

### Statement by the Commission

The Commission considers that the "joint EU submission" to be submitted the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communication, Search and Rescue (NCSR 3), concerning a report on the audit process of the International Long-Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT) Data Exchange, is covered by EU exclusive competence. Submission of proposals to the IMO on issues of EU competence is an act of external representation and should be made by the Commission on behalf of the EU to IMO and should therefore be sent to the IMO by the Commission.

In the view of the Commission, the procedural arguments against presenting submissions to the IMO by the Commission on behalf of the EU are not convincing as there is no evidence to suggest that the IMO would reject such a submission. If the IMO were to do so it would be against the general provisions the UN has made for EU representation and participation in its work (UN GA Res 65/276).

The Commission thus maintains its position that the Treaty rules on external representation of the Union should be applied and, consequently, to present the submission in question to the IMO by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union is the only legally correct way forward. In case of non-respect of the above rules, the Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.