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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Working Party on the Standardization of Technical
and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE STANDARDIZATION
OF TECHNICAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN INLAND NAVIGATION
ON ITS THIRTY-SECOND SESSION (25-27 March 2008)**

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I. ATTENDANCE

1. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (WP.3/SC.3), hereafter referred to as the Working Party or SC.3/WP.3, held its thirty-second session from 25-27 March 2008. Representatives of the following countries participated: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Russian Federation and Serbia. The European Commission (EC) was represented. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also took part in the session: Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Danube Commission (DC) and International Sava River Basin Commission. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Boating Association (EBA) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The Czech Republic, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland informed the secretariat that they were unable to attend.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/63

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda as prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/63) with a note that the following two issues were added under item XIII (Other Business): (c) Data harmonization and simplification in international trade and transport: the work of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT); (d) Future organization of the SC.3/WP.3 sessions.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 2)

3. Mr. Evgeny Kormyshov (Russian Federation) was re-elected Chairman of the session. Mrs. Eva Molnar, director of UNECE Transport Division, congratulated Mr. Kormyshov on his re-election. She informed the Working Party about the latest development in the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC), noting in particular, the ITC's intention to reinforce cooperation with the European Union. She encouraged SC.3/WP.3 to continue its work on following up on the issues identified by the Bucharest Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport. She also informed the Working Party that the work on a new edition of the White Paper on Trends in and Development of Inland Navigation and its Infrastructure, which would address, among other issues, the harmonization of regulatory framework for inland navigation, would start shortly and the Working Party would be briefed on the progress at its June session.

IV. FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE EUROPEAN CODE FOR INLAND WATERWAYS (CEVNI) (Agenda item 3)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.3

4. The Working Party took note of the publication by the secretariat of the third revised edition of CEVNI, incorporating changes introduced by the Resolutions 54 and 62.

A. Chapter 1, "General Provisions"

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/1

5. The Working Party considered the proposal by the Austrian Government to revise the definition of high-speed vessels, taking into account the comments from other Governments and River Commissions, presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/1. SC.3/WP.3 decided to carry on discussing this issue within the informal Working group on CEVNI.

B. Chapter 6, “Rules of the road”

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/2

6. The Working Party came back to the discussion on the need of elaborating regulations on the navigation of small vessels. SC.3/WP.3 observed, based on document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/2 and a profound exchange of views, that there was not yet a general agreement as to the content of special regulations for small vessels, as well as the format, in which these rules could be elaborated (a separate SC.3 resolution, an amendment to the existing CEVNI provisions or a new chapter in CEVNI). The Working Party recalled, however, that during its thirty-first session, it recognized the need for special rules for small crafts and decided to proceed with their elaboration. Therefore, SC.3/WP.3 requested that by its thirty-third session, Governments and River Commissions send information on the documents which govern the navigation by small crafts on their territory and express their position on the elaboration of such rules by the UNECE. The Working Party also invited the informal working group on CEVNI to consider this issue at its next meeting.

C. Other amendments to CEVNI

7. The Working Party observed that no other proposals on amendment of CEVNI were presented for the March session. Noting that constant and numerous modifications of CEVNI rules should be avoided and taking into account the current work of the informal working group on CEVNI, SC.3/WP.3 agreed to discuss further amendments to CEVNI once the results of the analysis of the traffic rules in Europe by the informal working group on CEVNI were available.

D. Possible upgrading of CEVNI status

Documentation: Informal Document No. 1/Rev.1

8. The delegate of the Netherlands informed SC.3/WP.3 of the creation of an informal working group on CEVNI, whose goal was to identify the differences in traffic rules in Europe, in accordance with the decision of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport during its fifty-first session. He presented Informal document No. 1/Rev.1, which contained an excerpt of the comparison document between CEVNI and the rules from River Commissions, and informed SC.3/WP.3 that the informal group was working in parallel on a proposal of further amendments to CEVNI in order to simplify and improve existing provisions, as well as reduce the number of existing footnotes in CEVNI provisions. The Austrian delegation emphasized that progress in this area could be achieved despite the existence of differences in national rules. SC.3/WP.3 welcomed the creation of the working group and noted the importance of its work. It requested that an advance version of the comparison document be presented as an official document for its thirty-third session and asked Governments to express their comments or proposals regarding this work.

V. AMENDMENTS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HARMONIZED EUROPE-WIDE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INLAND NAVIGATION VESSELS (ANNEX TO RESOLUTION NO. 61) (Agenda item 4)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172

9. The Working Party noted that the amendments to Appendix 1 of the annex to the resolution, recommended by SC.3/WP.3 for approval, were approved by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport at its fifty-first session. The Working Party considered the following proposals on further amendments to the Recommendations:

A. Chapter 2, “Procedure and rules for the inspection of inland navigation vessels”

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/3

10. At the request of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3), the Working Party reconsidered the proposed amendments to section 2-7 on official number, contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/3. The Working Party agreed with the Russian Federation’s proposal to rename section 2-7 as “Unique European Identification Number” in order to ensure consistency with other international documents on this subject. Furthermore, the Working Party noted that maintaining one single identification number throughout the entire life of the vessel, as proposed in point 2-7.3 of the draft, served the needs of River Information Services, but complicated the identification of the vessel’s country of registry. Bearing this in mind, SC.3/WP.3 approved, in principle, the draft amendments to section 2-7 with a new title proposed by the Russian Federation, noting that it would revert to point 2-7.3 at its June session, when it would finalize its recommendation to SC.3.

B. Chapter 20 and 21, “Specific requirements for sea-going vessels, recreational vessels and river-sea vessels”

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/4

11. On behalf of the Chairman of the SC.3 Group of Volunteer experts, the secretariat reported on the progress in drafting special requirements for sea-going, recreational and river-sea vessels, in accordance with the decision of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport at its fiftieth session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174, para. 33). The secretariat presented draft chapters 20A “Specific requirements for sea-going vessels” and 21 “Specific requirements to recreational craft” (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/4) and informed the Working Party that the work on special requirements to river-sea vessels was ongoing.

12. SC.3/WP.3 expressed its deep gratitude to the Group of Volunteers for its excellent work. The Working Party considered and approved the draft chapter 20A on “Specific requirements for sea-going vessels”. As to the draft of Chapter 21 on “Specific requirements applicable to recreational vessels”, the Working Party requested that the Group of Volunteers remove the reference to EC directives in point 21.2.2; reconsider the issue of crews requirements to recreational craft in point 21-3 and, re-submit the document to SC.3/WP.3 for consideration.

VI. ELABORATION OF HARMONIZED PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION OF SHIP'S CERTIFICATES AND BOATMASTERS' LICENSES (Agenda item 5)

A. Reciprocal recognition of ship's certificates

13. The Working Party noted that, in the absence of comments from Governments and River Commissions on the issue of recognition of ship's certificates, the secretariat had not been able to issue a discussion document for this item. SC.3/WP.3 recalled that the issue of mutual recognition was closely related to the harmonization of technical requirements and that important progress in that area had been achieved in the last several years. The Working Party also noted the ongoing work by the River Commissions on ensuring mutual recognition of ship's certificates between their Member States. SC.3/WP.3 reiterated its request to Governments to submit, by 15 May 2008 for the June session, their position and/or proposals on possible mechanisms for ensuring mutual recognition with the special invitation to the River Commissions to share their experience in this area.

B. Reciprocal recognition of boatmaster's licenses

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/6 and Add.1

14. ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/6 and Add.1 were prepared in accordance with the request of SC.3 to compile relevant EU legislation and other relevant documents (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 26). The Working Party considered that these documents together with the document on the CCNR procedure for consideration of applications for recognition of boatmasters' licenses (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2007/8/Add.1) constituted a good base for expert work on this issue. SC.3/WP.3 was informed of the progress achieved in this area by the Danube and Sava Commissions and the current activities of the Russian Federation. The Working Party also took note of the planned impact assessment study, aimed at identifying the best policy option that would lead to the legislative harmonization of boatmasters' certificates across the EU, to be carried out by the European Commission. The Working Party observed that collecting information on the sets of questions on local navigational conditions on different European river basins and studying the possibility that a national administration could carry out an examination on local conditions in a foreign river basin could be the useful step in addressing the issue. SC.3/WP.3 decided to create a group of volunteers and invited interested Governments, European Commission and River Commissions to join the group and start work on this issue, using the above-mentioned documents, and, in particular, the CCNR mechanism for mutual recognition.

15. In the light of these discussions, the Working Party:

- a) Asked Governments and River Commissions to send to the secretariat information on their principles and criteria on the mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates;
- b) Invited the European Commission to submit information on the progress and the preliminary results of the planned impact assessment study to the SC.3/WP.3 June session, as well as to take due account in the study of the relevant discussions and decisions of SC.3/WP.3;

- c) Invited Governments, European Commission and River Commissions to nominate an expert to take part in the group of volunteers on mutual recognition of boatmasters' licences.

VII. REQUIREMENTS FOR PREVENTION OF WATER POLLUTION FROM VESSELS (Agenda item 6)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/7

16. The Working Party noted the publication of the revised Resolution on prevention of pollution of inland waterways by vessels (resolution No. 21) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/179).

17. The Working Party considered the content of the Joint Statement on Guiding Principles on the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin. SC.3/WP.3 observed that some of the integrated planning principles and criteria for river engineering recommended by the joint statement could be extended to the Pan-European level as a Resolution by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3). The Working Party, therefore, asked Governments to examine the joint statement and inform the secretariat by the June session of their opinion on the possible adoption of the document by SC.3.

VIII. FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON MAIN INLAND WATERWAYS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (AGN) (Agenda item 7)

18. The Working Party noted that the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) at its fifty-first session approved, in principle, the amendments to Annexes I and II, recommended by SC.3/WP.3, and decided that amendments to the list of ports and inland waterways in the AGN agreement would from now on be considered and adopted as a package every two years.

A. Annex IV, "Protection of the network from the intentional external influence"

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/8

19. The Working Party considered document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/8, presenting the draft Annex IV and the results of the additional consultations with the European Commission and the UNECE Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security, as requested by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport. SC.3/WP.3 observed that no objections or additional comments were received during these consultations and decided to recommend to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport to adopt the draft Annex IV, as presented in the document. In the context of these discussions, the Working Party also took note of the presentation on Supply Chain Security standards activities of International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

B. New provisions on environmental impact assessment

20. The Working Party recalled that the Working Party on Inland Water Transport asked SC.3/WP.3 to consider the feasibility of including in the AGN agreement new provisions on environmental impact assessment, based on the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. The secretariat informed SC.3/WP.3 that, subsequent to

that request, the UNECE Inland Transport Committee recommended not to amend the UNECE transport infrastructure agreements, but, instead, to strengthen the cooperation between its Working Parties and the Transport Health and Environment Pan European Programme (THE PEP) and International Transport Forum (ECE/TRANS/200, para. 24). The Working Party agreed to include a presentation of THE PEP programme in the agenda of its next session.

IX. COMMON PRINCIPLES AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PAN-EUROPEAN RIVER INFORMATION SERVICES (RIS) (Agenda item 8)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/10

21. The Working Party took note of the request by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport to ensure proper maintenance of the RIS related recommendations (in particular, Resolution Nos. 48, 57, 60, 63) by monitoring the work of relevant international experts groups and notifying SC.3 of any developments that would make it necessary to amend the resolutions (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 27). The Working Party observed that no proposal on amending the SC.3 resolutions related to river information services was communicated to the secretariat. In this context, the Working Party took note of the progress achieved in the RIS implementation by the Russian Federation, particularly, in the area of creation of the electronic navigation maps and differentiated global navigation satellite system. SC.3/WP.3 also took note of the overview of the activities of the European Committee RAINWAT under the framework of the Regional Arrangement concerning the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/10) and invited the Committee to attend its June session so that its relevant activities could be discussed.

X. RESOLUTION NO. 40 ON INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE FOR OPERATORS OF PLEASURE CRAFT (Agenda item 9)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/11

22. The Working Party considered and approved the proposal submitted by the European Boating Association (EBA) to add a new Annex with information on the acceptance and implementation details of International Certificate for operators of Pleasure Craft (ICC). SC.3/WP.3 also agreed with the proposal to amend resolution No. 40 in order to allow administration to deliver ICCs to competent persons, who are not nationals or residents of the administration's country. The Working Party considered, however, that the new wording to that effect (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/11, para. 7) could be improved. The Working Party, therefore, requested that EBA in cooperation with the secretariat prepare a draft revised resolution No. 40 for the June session. SC.3/WP.3 also invited Governments to submit information about the ICC implementation by their administrations and the competent authorities for issuing ICCs.

XI. EUROPEAN NETWORK AIMING AT THE FACILITATION OF EXCHANGES ON NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN INLAND NAVIGATION (Agenda item 10)

23. The Working Party acknowledged the importance of commencing the work on this item, which is closely related to the issue of the mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates.

SC.3/WP.3 noted the ongoing work of River Commissions, and the Danube Commission, in particular, as well as the experience available from the International Maritime Organization. The Working Party took note of the research project entitled Platina (Platform for the implementation of NAIADES), funded by the European Commission that also includes a dedicated working package “Jobs and skills,” that will also focus on the issue of European Inland Water Transport Educational network. In the light of this information, SC.3/WP.3 asked the European Commission and River Commissions to send information on their activities in the area to the secretariat by 15 May 2008, so that an informative document could be prepared for the SC.3/WP.3 June session.

XII. TRANSPORT OF DISABLED PEOPLE (Agenda item 11)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/12

24. The Working Party took note of the SC.3 request to review the text of resolution No. 25, which contains Guidelines for Passenger Vessels also suited for carrying Disabled Persons. In this context, the Russian Federation submitted a proposal for special requirements for handicapped persons, based on their national legislation in the area. The Working Party agreed with the remark by the CCNR, who observed that Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (annex to resolution No. 61) included provisions related to persons with reduced mobility; and that the provisions of resolution No. 61 needed to be studied alongside the issue of the revision of resolution No. 25. The Working Party also took note of the proposal by the CCNR to be a source of relevant provisions. Delegations exchanged views on whether the technical requirements related to people with reduced mobility should remain the object of a separate resolution or should be fully integrated in resolution No. 61. In order to resolve this issue, the Working Party requested that:

- a) The secretariat prepare for the June SC.3/WP.3 session, an informative document on the relevant provisions contained in resolution No. 61 and other relevant documents, such as the CCNR and European Community’s administrative instructions;
- b) Governments consider the current text of resolution No. 25 and express their opinion on the need for its revision in time for the June SC.3/WP.3 session.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 12)

A. Definition of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service in inland navigation

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/13

25. At the request of the Working Party SC.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 14), the Working Party considered the definition of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service in inland waterways, prepared by a UNECE informal group of experts in the course of the revision of document on “Methodological basis for the definition of common criteria regarding bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks”. SC.3/WP.3 agreed with the proposal by the Russian Federation to replace in the end of paragraph 3 the words “I through VII” with “IV through VII”. As far as the quality of services on inland waterways is concerned,

the Austrian delegation referred the UNECE informal group of experts to the newly established working group on quality of service of International Navigation Association (PIANC). The Working Party also recommended that the Working Party on Inland Water Transport through the UNECE Inland Transport Committee address Governments with the appeal to reduce bottlenecks and missing links on their inland waterways and to report on their activities in this area.

B. Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway

26. The secretariat informed the Working Party that the Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterways had been ratified in 2007 and 2008 by three more countries (France, Germany and the Russian Federation) and now included twelve Contracting Parties. The Working Party took note of the implementation of the convention in the Russian Federation and the adoption of a federal law to that effect. To prepare a more in-depth discussion by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport in October 2008, SC.3/WP.3 asked the delegations to communicate to the secretariat a focal point in their country, to whom a questionnaire on the implementation process or the reason for non-participation could be addressed in order to prepare a more detailed report for the SC.3 fifty-second session.

C. Data harmonization and simplification in international trade and transport: the work of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

27. The Working Party took note of proposal by a representative of the UNECE Trade and Timber Division to present the work of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) in the area of simplifying and harmonizing the trade and transport documents and, in particular, its latest initiative on developing a Recommendation on Data Harmonization, Simplification Harmonization and Standardization for International Trade (Recommendation No. 34). SC.3/WP.3 considered that this issue should be forwarded to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport for exploring possible synergies with UN/CEFACT.

D. Future organization of the SC.3/WP.3 sessions

28. The Working Party discussed the organization of the SC.3/WP.3 sessions in the future. SC.3/WP.3 noted that the former arrangement, which consisted of splitting the navigational and technical issues between two sessions, was no longer efficient and that discussing the work items in March and in June would enable it to better prepare the draft decisions and recommendations for the October session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport. The Working Party, therefore, requested that the secretariat include all work items under consideration by SC.3/WP.3 in the agendas for both March and June sessions. The Working Party also requested that the secretariat study the possibility to leave more time between the two SC.3/WP.3 sessions and that more efforts be made to ensure that a larger part of the draft report is available in Russian and French on the third day of the meeting.

E. Cooperation with the European Union

29. The Working Party took note of the information provided by the Chairman on the latest consultations between the Russian Federation and the European Commission, where the need for

cooperation within the UNECE was underlined by the Russian Federation. In this context, the Working Party also took note of the information presented by EBA about the European Interreg programme, inviting countries to participate by proposing projects on the development of recreational navigation infrastructure.

XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 13)

30. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party adopted the report of its thirty-second session on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat.

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