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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Fifty-third session

Geneva, 4-6 November 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 November 2009^{1, 2}

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) bodies of interest to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport.
3. Exchange of information on measures aimed at promoting transport by inland waterway.
4. White Paper on efficient and sustainable inland water transport in Europe.
5. Standardization of technical and safety requirements in inland navigation:

¹ Delegates are requested to fill in one of the attached registration forms (Long Duration/Expert Form or Conference Registration Form) (which are also available from the Internet website of the UNECE Transport Division) and to transmit the completed form, at least two weeks before the session, to the UNECE Transport Division, either by fax (+41 22-917 0039) or by e-mail (sc.3@unece.org). Prior to the session, delegates should go to the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Palais des Nations, Geneva, in order to obtain an identification badge. In case of difficulties, please telephone the UNECE secretariat (extension 72660).

² For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no documentation available in the meeting room. Any missing documents may be obtained from the Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations.). The documentation is also available and may be copied from the UNECE website: <<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/sc3/sc3age.html>>.

- (a) Amendments to European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI);
 - (b) Amendments to Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster's Licences in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (Resolution No. 31);
 - (c) Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61).
6. Inland waterway infrastructure:
- (a) European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN);
 - (b) Inventory of main standards and parameters of the E waterway network ("Blue Book");
 - (c) Inventory of most important bottlenecks and missing links in the E waterway network (Resolution No. 49).
7. Harmonization of the legal framework for international inland water transport:
- (a) Status of international conventions and agreements on inland navigation issues;
 - (b) Application of UNECE resolutions relating to inland navigation;
 - (c) The 1988 Strasbourg Convention on Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation.
8. Inland water transport and security.
9. Inland water transport and environment.
10. Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for pan-European river information service.
11. Biennial evaluation and programme of work for 2010-2014.
12. Other business.
13. Tentative list of meetings for 2010.
14. Adoption of the report.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/182

1. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2. Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/206, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/32, ECE/ADN/6

2. The Working Party on Inland Water Transport, hereafter the Working Party or SC.3, will be informed of the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) taken at its seventy-first session (24-26 February 2009) as they relate to the work of the Working Party.

3. It will equally be informed of the activities and results of work of the Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (ADN Safety Committee), based on the report of the WP.15/AC.2 fifteenth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/32) and the report of the ADN Administrative Committee on its 3rd session (ECE/ADN/6).

Item 3. Exchange of information on measures aimed at promoting transport by inland waterway

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/1

4. The Working Party will be informed of the relevant activities of the European Union (EU) and the River Commissions aimed at promoting transport by inland waterways.

5. In accordance with the decision of its fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/181, para.11), the Working Party will also evaluate progress made in the implementation of the Plan of action to implement the decisions of the 2006 Bucharest Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport (ITC Resolution No. 258), based on a report by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/1).

Item 4. White Paper on efficient and sustainable inland water transport in Europe

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/3

6. The Working Party will consider the first draft of the second edition of a UNECE White Paper on inland water transport (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/2), as prepared by the secretariat following the decision of SC.3 during its fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/181, para. 53).

7. In this context, the Working Party may wish to discuss the policy recommendations to be included in the final draft of the White Paper, as well as consider the proposal of the ITC Bureau to hold a policy segment on Inland Water Transport at the seventy-second session of the Committee on 23-25 February 2010. Background information on the ITC policy segment will be published by the secretariat in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/3.

Item 5. Standardization of technical and safety requirements in inland navigation

8. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) held two sessions in 2009: the thirty-fourth session on 11-13 February 2009 and the thirty-fifth session on 3-5 June 2009. The reports of the sessions have been circulated as ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/68 and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/70 respectively. The Working Party may wish to consider the main activities carried out by SC.3/WP.3 as mentioned below, endorse or comment on them and give guidance where necessary.

(a) Amendments to European Code for Inland Waterways

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/4

9. In accordance with the decision of the fifty-second session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/181, paras. 24-26), SC.3/WP.3 has carried out an extensive work in preparing amendments to the European Code for Inland Waterways, based on a comparative analysis of the provisions of the third edition of CEVNI (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.3) and the current regulations of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, Mosel Commission, Danube Commission and International Sava River Basin Commission (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/6). The amendment proposal is presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/4 for the adoption as SC.3 resolution No. 66. The revised draft text of CEVNI is presented in Informal documents No. 1 and 2.

10. In this context, the Working Party may also wish to discuss mechanisms for ensuring and maintaining the harmonization between CEVNI and the regulations of River Commissions and, if needed, elaborate recommendations to be forwarded to the Inland Transport Committee.

(b) Amendments to Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster's Licences in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (Resolution No. 31)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/5, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/6

11. At its fifty-first session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport had discussed the development of harmonized procedure to consider applications for recognition of ship's certificates and boatmasters' certificates. The Working Party had also taken note of the recommendation of SC.3/WP.3 to establish a group of volunteers to prepare an instrument in this area and to revise the Recommendations on Minimum requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licences in Inland Navigation (Resolution No. 31). The Working Party asked SC.3/WP.3 to consider this issue in detail during its 2008 sessions, creating when appropriate, the group of volunteers on the revision of the resolution (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 26). At its fifty-second session, the Working Party was informed that a group of volunteers on the mutual recognition of boatmasters' licenses, composed of interested member States, EC and River Commissions had met in Geneva on 18 September 2008. It had carried out a comparative analysis of the existing EU and River Commissions' regulations and recommendations in the area and prepared preliminary conclusions and recommendations on the revision of Resolution No. 31 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/181, paras. 36-37).

12. The Working Party may wish to consider and, if appropriate, adopt the draft revised Resolution No. 31, prepared by SC.3/WP.3 based on the comparative analysis of EU Directive 96/50/EC on the harmonization of the conditions for obtaining national boatmaster's certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by Inland Waterway in the Community and the relevant instruments of River Commissions (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/5).

13. The Working Party may wish to take note of the European Commission's intention to carry out a revision of directive 96/50/EC in the near future and discuss how the revised

Resolution No. 31 could support this process. In doing so, the Working Party may wish to note that the analysis of its group of volunteers on the mutual recognition of boatmasters' licenses had been used in the preparation of the impact assessment and evaluation study on a "Proposal for a legal instrument on the harmonization of boatmaster's certificates in inland waterway transport", carried out for the European Commission in 2008-2009.

14. It is recalled that Resolution No. 258 of the Inland Transport Committee, along with the Plan of action for the implementation of the decisions taken by the pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport request the Working Party and its relevant subsidiary bodies to cooperate with River Commissions in order to rationalize and unify as much as possible the requirements to check the knowledge by boatmasters of specific stretches of inland waterways and their navigating skills on those stretches (ECE/TRANS/192, Annex II, item 2). In this context, the Working Party may wish to take note of the preliminary information on the local knowledge requirements in the UNECE countries, compiled by the secretariat following the decision of the thirty-fourth session of SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/68, paras. 26-27) and presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/6.

(c) Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Amend.2

15. The Working Party may wish to note that the amendments to Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels, hereafter Resolution No. 61, adopted at the fifty-second session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/181, paras. 27-29) were published by the secretariat as document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Amend.2.

16. During its thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth sessions, SC.3/WP.3 considered further amendments to Resolution No. 61, notably in the light of the amendments brought to the EU Directive 2006/87/EC laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels (respectively, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/68, paras. 28-32 and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/70, paras. 26-27). The Working Party may wish to take note of the ongoing work of SC.3/WP.3 and, if necessary, issue additional instructions to SC.3/WP.3.

Item 6. Inland waterway infrastructure

(a) European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/120/Rev.2

17. The Working Party may wish to note that, in accordance with Depository Notification C.N.424.2009.TREATIES-2 of 15 July 2009, the amendments to annexes I and II of the agreement adopted at its fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/181, para. 14) shall enter into force on 15 October 2009. The consolidated text of the AGN agreement will be published by the secretariat as document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/120/Rev.2.

18. Following the discussions at its forty-seventh session and forty-ninth sessions, the Working Party may wish to further consider the proposal to establish a list of possible sea-river routes in the context of the AGN Agreement.

(b) Inventory of main standards and parameters of the E waterway network ("Blue Book")

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/7

19. The first revised edition of the "Blue Book" approved at the fiftieth session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.1) and the map of European inland waterways (ECE/TRANS/NONE/2006) had been published in 2006. The next edition of the publication is scheduled for completion in 2011 and the secretariat will start collecting updates to the information contained in the Blue Book in 2010. At this stage, the Working Party may wish to discuss possible amendments to the content and the structure of the document, notably, based on the proposal received from Governments and presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/7.

(c) Inventory of most important bottlenecks and missing links in the E waterway network (Resolution No. 49)

Documentation: TRANS/SC.3/159, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/8

20. It is recalled that, following the adoption of Resolution No. 49 on the "Inventory of most important bottlenecks and missing links in the E waterway network" in October 2002, UNECE Governments were invited to inform UNECE of any progress in the elimination of bottlenecks and the completion of missing links relating to their respective inland waterways. The Working Party is requested to monitor the progress in the elimination of bottlenecks and the completion of missing links in the E waterway network and revise the Inventory whenever necessary. In this context, the Working Party may wish to consider amendments to the list of most important bottlenecks and missing links, as contained in Resolution No. 49 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/8).

Item 7. Harmonization of the legal framework for international inland water transport

(a) Status of international conventions and agreements on inland navigation issues

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/9

21. The Working Party may wish to take note of information on the current status of legal instruments on inland navigation questions, adopted both within and outside UNECE, as well as the progress in a number of their Contracting Parties since the Bucharest Conference in 2006, presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/9. The Working Party may wish to invite governments to keep the secretariat informed of any further rectifications or additions to be made to the document.

22. In this context, the Working Party may wish to note that, following the ratification by the Republic of Serbia, the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the 1997

European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) is expected to enter into force in 2009.

23. The Working Party may wish to note that the up-to-date status of all UNECE Agreements and Conventions on transport issues may be consulted on the website of the Inland Transport Committee.³

(b) Application of UNECE resolutions relating to inland navigation

Documentation: TRANS/SC.3/159, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/10

24. The Working Party may also wish to consider the situation regarding the application by governments of its resolutions on the basis of document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/10 and invite governments to accept the resolutions if they have not yet done so.

(c) The 1988 Strasbourg Convention on Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/11

25. The Working Party will be informed of the progress achieved in elaborating an additional protocol to the 1988 Strasbourg Convention on Limitation of Liability of owners in inland navigation (TRANS/SC.3/R.130), aimed at facilitating access of the non-CCNR countries (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/11).

26. The Working Party may also wish to discuss the proposal of the Republic of Serbia to elaborate under the auspices of SC.3 the pan-European rules on general average in inland navigation (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/11/Add.1), as well as consider other activities which could promote a common legal regime for liability in inland navigation.

Item 8. Inland water transport and security

27. The Working Party will be informed of relevant activities by governments and international organizations and decide on possible action in this regard taking into account the instructions of the Inland Transport Committee.

Item 9. Inland water transport and environment

28. The Working Party may wish to continue its discussions on its possible activities in the area of inland water transport and environment, taking into account the relevant activities of River Commissions, such as the CCNR Congress on Navigation on the Rhine and climate change held in Bonn in June 2009 and the follow-up activities to the 2008 Joint Statement on Guiding Principles on the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin.

³ <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agree_e.pdf>.

Item 10. Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for pan-European river information service

29. The Working Party will be informed of any developments related to the implementation of River Information services, presented by the delegations.

Item 11. Biennial evaluation and programme of work for 2010-2014

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/12

30. The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its fifty-first session, it had adopted its programme of work for 2007-2011, as well as the main expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement for the period 2008-2009 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/177, para. 30 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 34 and para. 36).

31. The Working Party may wish to evaluate its accomplishments and indicators of achievement during this period, review whether they are still appropriate for 2010-2011 and, if not, decide on new accomplishments and indicators of achievement for that period. In this context, the Working Party may also wish to review its programme of work for the period 2010 to 2014 and transmit its proposals to ITC for decision at its forthcoming session (23-25 February 2010). The background information on the biennial evaluation and the SC.3 programme of work is presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2009/12.

Item 12. Other business

32. At the time of drafting this provisional agenda, there are no proposals under this item.

Item 13. Tentative list of meetings for 2010

33. The Working Party may wish to approve the following tentative list of meetings of SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3 for the year 2010:

10-12 February 2010	Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (thirty-sixth session);
23-25 June 2010	Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (thirty-seventh session);
13-15 October 2010	Working Party on Inland Water Transport (fifty-fourth session).

Item 14. Adoption of the report

34. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt a list of decisions taken at its fifty-third session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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