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Working Party on Inland Water Transport

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work, biennial evaluation and terms of reference

Draft work plan for 2012–2016

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. As requested by the Bureau of its UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its sixth meeting on 20 June 2011, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport should review and approve its traditional 4-year work plan for 2012–2016 in addition to the mandatory programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2012–2013 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2011/14).

2. The secretariat has reproduced below the traditional 4-year work plan as adopted by SC.3 at its fifty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/183/Add.1) indicating proposed deletions, modifications and additions, as appropriate.

II. Draft work plan for 2012–2016

Programme activity 02:6: Inland Water Transport

A. Inland waterway infrastructure

Priority: 1

Description: Development of a coherent navigable waterway network in Europe.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Inland Water Transport will carry out the following activities:

1. Continuing activities

(a) Monitoring the implementation of AGN ~~Agreement~~ and consideration of possible amendments to it. Priority: 2

Output expected:

(i) Preparation of action plans on elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territory of more than one State Party to AGN and preparation of proposals on the development of concrete river-sea routes in the context of the AGN ~~Agreement~~ (as called for in Resolution No. 252 of the Inland Transport Committee of 20 February 2003).

(ii) Updating the lists of ports and waterways of international importance in annexes I and II of the agreement.

(b) Revision **and promotion** of the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network ("Blue Book") in order to enable Governments to monitor the progress in the implementation of the AGN ~~Agreement~~. Priority: 1

Output expected: Preparing every five years a revised version of the blue book. Next revised version is scheduled to be published in ~~2011~~ **2016**.

(c) Updating maps of European inland waterways in order to avail Governments with up-to-date data concerning inland waterway infrastructure in Europe. Priority: 2

Output expected: Publication every five years of the update of the Map of European Inland Waterways. Next revised version is scheduled to be published in ~~2011~~ **2016**.

2. Activities of a limited duration

None.

B. Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport including inland water transport safety and facilitation of its operations. Priority: 1

Description:

(a) Exchange of views on selected aspects of new and improved techniques in inland water transport, their economic importance and appropriate applications; standardization of ship's papers and consideration of relevant legal provisions with a view to their harmonization aimed at facilitating and promoting international water transport in Europe.

(b) Standardization of technical requirements for inland navigation vessels with a view to ensuring the high level of safety of navigation throughout the European network of inland waterways and the reciprocal recognition on this basis of ship's certificates.

(c) Harmonization of safety requirements for inland navigation in Europe with a view to ensuring homogeneous and internationally acceptable standards of safety of navigation throughout the European network of inland waterways.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party, using when necessary the expertise of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation, will continue its work on the following questions:

1. Continuing activities

(a) Consideration of the possibility and need for amending existing UNECE legal instruments and recommendations with provisions aimed at enhancing safety and performance of inland water transport. Priority: 2

Output expected: Possible adoption of relevant draft amendments to AGN Agreement, CEVNI and/or Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels (Resolution No. 61).

(b) Preparation and circulation of studies on the situation and trends in inland navigation in order to provide Governments with up-to-date basic information and data concerning inland water transport mode. **Priority: 2**

Output expected:

(i) Regular publishing (~~once every ten years~~) of *“White Paper on Trends in and Development of Inland Navigation and its Infrastructure”* **of a White Paper on inland navigation** to inform general public about advantages of transport by inland waterway and issues in its development. ~~Next revised version is scheduled to be published in 2009.~~

(ii) Drafting a summary on recent developments in the field of inland navigation in member Governments once every two years. Next summary is scheduled to be published in ~~2010~~2012;

(iii) Consideration of the possibility to elaborate a comprehensive strategic policy for inland navigation, extending beyond the EC and covering also such countries as Belarus, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine;

(iv) Consideration of the questions of financing of inland waterway development (basic aspects of possible distribution of cost among beneficiaries as well as the main economic indicators for such infrastructure development) ~~could become a subject of a White Paper on financing the infrastructure of inland waterway transport.~~

(c) Application and updating of Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels (Resolution No. 61) in order to ensure a high level of safety of navigation. **Priority: 1**

Output expected:

(i) ~~Updating Recommendations on Harmonized Europe wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels (Resolution No. 61) with due regard, in particular, to the provisions in force within the European Union and River commissions.~~

(ii) ~~Further development of Resolution No. 61, including, in particular, consideration of a possibility and modality for the elaboration of specific unified technical requirements for sea river vessels.~~ **Promotion of Chapter 20 B of Resolution No. 61 on technical prescriptions for river-sea navigation vessels as a practical instrument, effectively applied by member States in promoting inland water and intermodal transport.**

(d) Assisting Governments in facilitating the free movement of crew members across Europe. **Priority: 2**

Output expected:

(i) Promoting harmonized pan-European standards on the issuance of boatmasters' certificates on the basis of the revised Recommendations on Minimum Manning Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' certificates in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (annex to Resolution No. 31) with due regard, in particular, to the provisions in force within the European Union and river commissions;

- (ii) Elaboration of a harmonized procedure for consideration of applications for recognition of ship's certificates and boatmasters' licences with the aim of ensuring a general and non-discriminatory approach to this consideration;
 - (iii) Consideration of the possibility of developing an all-European uniform Riverfarers' identity Document taking into account the relevant activities of River Commissions;
 - (iv) Rationalization and unification to the extent possible and, in cooperation with river commissions, of the requirements on checking the knowledge by boatmasters of specific stretches of inland waterways and their skill in coning vessels on those stretches. Consideration, with the participation of shipping companies, of the harmonization of crew members' job profiles;
 - (v) Consideration, jointly with river commissions, of the establishment of a European network aiming at the facilitation of exchanges on national educational programmes and vocational training in inland navigation.
- (e) Application and updating of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) and the provisions concerning Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways (SIGNI) to ensure a high-level of safety in international traffic. Priority: 1

Output expected:

- (i) Promoting the fourth revised edition of CEVNI as a basis for the harmonized navigation rules in the UNECE region in close cooperation with river commissions and preparing the next revision of CEVNI **and the preparation of the next revision of the Code;**
- (ii) ~~Publication of a revised SIGNI;~~ **Promoting the second revised edition of SIGNI (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/108/Rev.2) published in 2011;**
- (iii) Helping Governments and river commissions to identify and reduce, if possible, the difference between the CEVNI rules and the national/ regional legislation.
- (f) Elaboration of requirements for the prevention of pollution from vessels with a view to protecting the environment from pollution, noise and vibration originating from shipping. Priority: 2

Output expected:

- (i) Promoting the revised Resolution No. 21 on the Prevention of Water Pollution by Inland Navigation Vessels; and consideration of measures aimed at preventing air pollution by inland navigation vessels;
- (ii) Regular revision, in cooperation with EC and river commissions, the environmental standards taking into account the technological progress and the ever-increasing demand for the protection of the environment. **Revision in 2012–2013 of Chapter 10 of CEVNI on “Prevention of Pollution of Water and Disposal of Waste Occurring on Board Vessels” to reflect the practice of member States, codified *inter alia* in the 1996 Convention on Collection, Retention and Disposal of Waste Generated during Navigation on the Rhine and Other Inland Waterways.**
- (g) Promotion of implementation of existing UNECE Conventions pertaining to inland navigation and assessment of the legal instruments concerned in order to consider updating those, which have become obsolete. Priority: 3

Output expected:

- (i) Discussing the question of practical implementation by member Governments of the provisions of the Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI) and its impact on national legislation;
- (ii) Revision and updating of the 1965 Convention on the Registration of Inland Navigation Vessels;
- (iii) Initiating the consideration of the findings and recommendations of the Group of Volunteers on legislative obstacles, as reflected in TRANS/SC.3/2005/1 with a view to simplifying national legislation of member countries.
- (h) Application and maintenance, in close cooperation with competent international groups of experts, of resolutions on common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Service. Priority: 2

Output expected: Maintenance of texts and technical annexes of the following Resolutions:

- (i) No. 48 — Recommendation on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS);
- (ii) No. 57 — Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services;
- (iii) No. 60 — International standards for notices to skippers and for electronic ship reporting in inland navigation;
- (iv) No. 63 — International Standards for Tracking and Tracing in Inland Waterways.

2. Activities of a limited duration

(i) Following the developments relating to the possible accession of Central and Eastern European countries to the Strasbourg Convention on the Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation (CLNI) of 1988 with a view to deciding whether this may ensure the establishment in Europe of a unique regime of liability of owners of inland navigation vessels. Priority: 3

(j) Consideration of upgrading the status of Resolutions Nos. 61 (Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels), 24 (European Code for Inland Waterways) and 31 (Recommendations on boatmasters' licences) including their possible conversion into binding instruments with a view to providing, inter alia, for reciprocal recognition by its Parties of ship's certificates and crew members' licences issued on their basis. Priority: 2

Output expected: Presentation of amendments to the annex to Resolution No. 61, and to CEVNI in such a way that they could become a part of a binding instrument.

(k) Assisting Governments and river commissions in facilitating transport of disabled people. Priority: 2

Output expected: ~~Revision~~ **Promotion of the revised Resolution No. 25, which contains Guidelines for Passenger Vessels also suited for carrying Disabled Persons on Guidelines for Passenger Vessels also suited for carrying Persons with Reduced Mobility.**