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Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Fifty-fifth session

Geneva, 12–14 October 2011

Report of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport on its fifty-fifth session

Addendum

Mandatory programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2012–2013 and work plan for 2012–2016 for the Working Party on Inland Water Transport

I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-fifth session, in accordance with the decision of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) to review its programme of work every two years the next review being 2012 (ECE/TRANS/200, paragraph 120), the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) adopted its mandatory programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2012–2013, as well as the 4-year work plan for 2012–2016 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/191, paras. 52–53).

2. This document reproduces the final text of the mandatory programme of work for 2012–2013 (Section II), biennial evaluation for 2012–2013 (Section III) and the 4-year work plan for 2012–2016 (Section IV). Background information and explanations on these issues are contained in working documents ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2011/14 and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2011/15.

3. The first 5-year cycle will end as of 2012 and based on a comprehensive review of its activities, the Working Party may wish to propose to the Inland Transport Committee to renew the mandate and status of the Working Party for another cycle of 5-years as of 2013 (ECE/EX/1, para. 3 (d)).

II. Mandatory programme of work for 2012–2013

A. General

4. The present section sets out the programme of work for 2012–2013 of ITCs subprogramme relating to “Inland Water Transport”. The Working Party and ITC will have the opportunity to adjust its programme of work during the course of the biennium, to be reflected in a separate document.

5. The programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed for 2012–2013. The delivery of these outputs/activities contributes to achieving the expected results.

6. The grouping of programme activities into clusters is the same as that used by ITC for the biennial evaluation of its subprogramme performance.

7. The following clusters of activities make up the UNECE’s subprogramme on transport:

Cluster No. Subprogramme: 02 Transport

1. Overall coordination (Inland Transport Committee and Bureau)
 2. Transport trends and economics, land-locked countries and transit facilitation
 3. Road transport (Trans-European network for motorways (TEM) Project)
 4. Road traffic safety
 5. Harmonization of vehicle regulations, climate change and intelligent transport systems (ITS)
 6. Rail transport (Trans-European network for rail (TER) Project)
 7. Inland waterway transport
 8. Intermodal transport and logistics
 9. Customs questions affecting Transport
 10. Transport, Health and Environment pan-European programme (THE PEP)
 11. Transport of dangerous goods (UNECE)
 12. Transport of dangerous goods (ECOSOC)
 13. Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) (ECOSOC)
 14. Transport of perishable foodstuffs
 15. Transport statistics
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8. The outputs/activities listed in this document correspond with the UNECE proposed programme budget for 2012–2013. As necessary, they are complemented by additional items to reflect more recent developments and needs of UNECE member States. For easy reference, such new outputs/activities are clearly indicated as “additional”.

9. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary

documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including, seminars, workshops, training sessions, advisory services.

10. The relevant indicators of achievement, together with baseline and target data, against which performance will be measured, are presented in section II of this document.

11. The present document is based in substance on the SC.3 programme of work for 2010–2014 and the main expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement for 2010–2011, as adopted by the fifty-third session of the Working Party in October 2009 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/183, para. 31) and approved by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-second session on 23–25 February 2010 (ECE/TRANS/2010/8).

B. Objective and strategy

12. The objective of the UNECE subprogramme of transport is to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport.

13. The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division.

C. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2012–2013 biennium

14. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2012–2013 biennium are as follows:

1. Subprogramme: 02 Transport

Cluster 7: Inland Water Transport

<i>Description of cluster (optional)</i>	<i>Expected accomplishments from this cluster</i>
<p>1. Organize a Pan-European policy dialogue on the inland water transport (IWT) issues;</p> <p>2. Promote a coordinated development of inland waterway infrastructure;</p> <p>3. Address safety and operational requirements in inland navigation;</p> <p>4. Carry out other measures, aimed to facilitate the use of IWT, as recommended by the 2011 UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/189);</p> <p>5. Undertake other activities related to regional and international cooperation or requested by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee.</p>	An improved and updated regulatory framework for inland water transport infrastructure and vessels in the ECE region.

Main actions by the Transport Division:

- Provide secretariat services to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3), the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) and their groups of experts;
- Maintain an inventory of UNECE resolutions on inland water transport issues;
- Prepare regular technical and ad hoc policy publications;
- Represent UNECE in the relevant meetings of the EU, River Commissions and other relevant bodies.

2. Outputs/activities

(a) Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

7.1 Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (two sessions: fortieth and forty-first sessions, February and June 2012)

Documentation:

Agenda and reports of the sessions of the Working Party; technical papers on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and inland navigation qualifications, amendment proposals to the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI), Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61), Guidelines for Waterway Signs and Markings (Resolution No. 59), Recommendations on electronic chart display and information system for inland navigation (Inland ECDIS) (Resolution No. 48) and other SC.3 resolutions on technical and safety requirements.

7.2 Working Party on Inland Water Transport (fifty-sixth session, October 2012)

Documentation:

Agenda and report of the annual session of the Working Party; documents on the status and proposed amendments to the AGN agreement; amendment proposals to SC.3 resolutions on technical and safety requirements in inland navigation; reports on the status of implementation of SC.3 resolutions and international agreements on inland navigation matters; studies of IWT issues in the ECE region and overview of River Commissions' activities; documents on legal aspects of IWT operations.

7.3 Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (two sessions: forty-second and forty-third sessions, February and June 2013)

Documentation:

Agenda and reports of the sessions of the Working Party; technical papers on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and inland navigation qualifications, amendment proposals to CEVNI, to Resolution No. 61, to Resolution No. 31 on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster's Certificates in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic and to other SC.3 resolutions on technical and safety requirements.

7.4 Working Party on Inland Water Transport (fifty-seventh session, October 2013)

Documentation:

Agenda and report of the annual session of the Working Party; documents on the status and proposed amendments to the AGN agreement; amendment proposals to SC.3 resolutions on technical and safety requirements in inland navigation; reports on the status of implementation of SC.3 resolutions and international agreements on inland navigation matters; studies of IWT issues in the ECE region and overview of River Commissions' activities; documents on legal aspects of IWT operations.

(b) Publications and other information material

7.1 Online inventory of UNECE resolutions and publications in IWT issues;

7.2 Publication of the revised edition of CEVNI;

7.3 Publication of revised editions of relevant UNECE resolutions, amended by SC.3;

7.4 Publication of a map of European inland waterways.

(c) *Technical cooperation*

7.1 Support for technical cooperation and capacity building to assist countries and River Commissions in establishing homogeneous and internationally acceptable standards of safety of navigation throughout the European network of inland waterways.

III. Biennial evaluation for 2012–2013

15. On the basis of decisions taken at its fifty-third session in October 2009 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/183, para. 31), the activities of the Working Party are measured, as part of the biennial evaluation, against one expected accomplishment, two indicators of accomplishment and corresponding performance measures. In February 2010, this approach was approved by the Inland Transport Committee as part of the performance planning for evaluation of the biennium 2010–2011 (ECE/TRANS/2010/7).

16. At its fifty-fifth session on 12-14 October 2011, the Working Party reviewed these parameters and the actual performance measures for 2010–2011, as described below with a view to either maintaining them or establishing new ones for the biennium 2012–2013.

<i>Biennial Assessment</i> <i>Review of performance measures for 2010–2011 and establishment of targets for 2012–2013</i>			
<i>Cluster</i>	<i>Expected Accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of Achievement</i>	<i>Actual Performance Measures</i>
7. Inland Water Transport	An improved and updated regulatory framework for inland water transport infrastructure and vessels in the ECE region	(a) Harmonization of technical requirements for inland vessels in the UNECE region under the framework of Resolution No. 61, “Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels”.	<p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>Baseline 2009: Adoption by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport of new Chapters 20 and 21.</p> <p>Target 2010–2011: Adoption of amendments to Resolution No. 61 (in particular, Chapter 1, 2 and 15 and appendices) approved by SC.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/187, para. 29) the latest amendments to the EU Directive 2006/87/EC laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels.</p> <p>(a) Amendments to Resolution No. 61 (in particular, Chapter 1, 2 and 15 and appendices) approved by SC.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/187, para. 29)</p> <p>(b) Amendments to Resolutions No. 61 (Revision of definitions in Chapter 1–2 and Chapter 20 B on river-sea navigation vessels) submitted for approval to fifty-fifth session of SC.3.</p>

Biennial Assessment

Review of performance measures for 2010–2011 and establishment of targets for 2012–2013

- (b) Implementation of the fourth revised edition of the European Code for Inland Navigation (CEVNI)

Performance measures:

Baseline 2009: Latest revision of CEVNI

Target: 2010–2011:

Collecting information on national and regional provisions deviating from CEVNI, in accordance with the new Chapter 9 on "Regional and National Special Requirements"; monitoring the revision of the River Commissions' regulations in accordance with the new text of CEVNI.

CEVNI Status document (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2011/7) submitted to fifty-fifth session of SC.3, incl. information on the application of CEVNI in relevant regulations of member States and River Commissions.

17. Assessing its work results during the last biennium, the Working Party noted very satisfactory progress on the two indicators of achievements, i.e. adoption of amendments to Resolution No. 61 in the light of the latest amendments to the EU Directive 2006/87/EC and monitoring the implementation of the fourth revised edition of CEVNI. The Working Party also noted that, in addition to these two activities, SC.3, assisted by SC.3/WP.3, finalized in 2011 the White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe, which contained strategic policy recommendations for the development of inland water transport at the pan-European level. Furthermore, during the biennium SC.3 prepared the revision of the UNECE Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network ("Blue Book") and achieved tangible progress in its work on technical and safety requirements for inland navigation, such as the special technical requirements for river-sea navigation vessels and the revised Resolution No. 57 on Guidelines for River Information Services. (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/191, para. 51).

18. Taking into account the decisions on the indicators of achievement for 2012–2013 made under agenda items 5 (c) and 7 (a) of the fifty-fifth session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/191, paras. 20 and 28), the Working Party maintained the expected accomplishment for 2012–2013, i.e. an improved and updated regulatory framework for inland water transport infrastructure and vessels in the ECE region and adopted the following indicators of achievement for 2012–2013:

Indicators of Achievement

- (a) Promotion of the second edition of the UNECE Blue Book and, on this basis, updating of the AGN Agreement and other relevant UNECE instruments:

Performance measures:

Baseline 2011: Adoption by SC.3 of the second edition of UNECE Blue Book

Target 2012–2013: Adoption of amendments to the AGN and related UNECE legal instruments on transport infrastructure, such as Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC).

(b) Preparation of the next revision of CEVNI taking account of information on its application in member States and by River Commissions:

Performance measures:

Baseline 2011: Preparation of a CEVNI Status document, presenting information on the application of CEVNI in member States and by River Commissions and national and regional deviations from CEVNI (Chapter 9)

Target 2012–2013: Preparation of amendments to CEVNI with the goal to prepare the next substantial revision of CEVNI.

IV. The 4-year work plan for 2012–2016 for 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 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 (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. Priority: 1

Output expected: Preparing every five years a revised version of the Blue Book. Next revised version is scheduled to be published in 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 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 of a White Paper on inland navigation to inform general public about advantages of transport by inland waterway and issues in its development.

(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 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).

(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 Resolution No. 61 with due regard, in particular, to the provisions in force within the European Union and River commissions.
- (ii) 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) Addressing the need for modernization of the professional requirements in inland navigation and considering practical modalities for cooperation between SC.3, the European Union, River Commissions and other stakeholders in this area.
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) Consideration of the possibility of developing an all-European uniform Riverfarers' identity Document taking into account the relevant activities of River Commissions;
- (v) 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;
- (vi) 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) 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 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 member's 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: Promotion of the revised Resolution No. 25 on Guidelines for Passenger Vessels also suited for carrying Persons with Reduced Mobility.
