



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 November 2011
English
Original: English, French And
Russian

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

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

Terms of reference for the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3)

I. Introduction

1. The guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE stipulate that each Working Party prepares its terms of reference which must be adopted by its parent Sectoral Committee (ECE/EX/1, para. 3 (a)).
2. In accordance with this request, at its fifty-fifth session the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) approved its terms of references, as reproduced below (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/191, para. 54). Background information and explanations on the mandate are contained in the working document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2011/16.
3. These terms of reference are 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 from 23 to 25 February 2010 (ECE/TRANS/2010/8).
4. The first 5-year cycle will end as of 2012 and based on a comprehensive review of its activities, the Working Party proposes 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. Terms of reference of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport

5. The Working Party on Inland Water Transport and its subsidiary body, i.e. the Working Party Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3), act within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter UNECE) under the general supervision of the Inland Transport Committee (hereafter ITC) and in conformity with the Terms of Reference of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.4).

6. SC.3 will operate in accordance with the UNECE Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE as approved by the UNECE Executive Committee at its fourth meeting on 14 July 2006 (ECE/EX/1). These guidelines refer to its status and characteristics, including the review of its mandate and extension every 5 years, its membership and officers, its methods of work and its secretariat provided by the UNECE Transport Division.

7. In line with the objective of the UNECE transport subprogramme 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, SC.3, assisted, where appropriate by SC.3/WP.3, will carry out the following activities:

1. *Organize a pan-European policy dialogue on the inland water transport (IWT) issues:*

(a) Provide an inclusive and representative forum for exchange of experiences and best practices and providing guidance on how to address challenges in inland water transport development;

(b) Prepare studies on the situation and trends in inland navigation in order to provide Governments with up-to-date basic information and data concerning the inland water transport mode;

(c) Regularly publish policy papers (white papers, inventories of obstacles, etc.) on IWT to inform the general public about advantages of transport by inland waterway and issues in its development.

2. *Promote a coordinated development of inland waterway infrastructure:*

(a) Monitor the implementation of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN), adopt amendments to the lists of inland waterways and ports and their parameters, as contained in the annexes to the AGN, and elaborate proposals on further development of the agreement;

(b) Maintain the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (UNECE "Blue book") and other relevant SC.3 resolutions and maps which provides regularly updated information on standards and parameters of E waterways and ports in Europe;

(c) Prepare action plans on eliminating concrete bottlenecks and completing missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territory of more than one State Party to AGN and preparing proposals on the development of concrete river-sea routes in the context of the AGN;

(d) Provide a forum for ad hoc committees, expert groups or round tables to further coordinate the development of the E waterway network.

3. *Address safety and operational requirements in inland navigation:*
 - (a) Organize exchanges of views on selected aspects of new and improved techniques in inland water transport with a view to their harmonization with the aim of facilitating and promoting international water transport in Europe;
 - (b) Harmonize safety requirements for inland navigation in Europe with a view to ensuring homogeneous and internationally acceptable standards of navigation safety throughout the European network of inland waterways;
 - (c) Harmonize technical requirements for inland navigation vessels with a view to ensuring the high-level of navigation safety throughout the European network of inland waterways and the reciprocal recognition on this basis of ship's certificates;
 - (d) Harmonize technical requirements on the prevention of pollution by inland vessels;
 - (e) Address the issues of mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and other issues related to the professional qualifications in the area of inland navigation;
 - (f) Promote the use and safety of recreational navigation.
4. *Carry out other measures, aimed to facilitate the use of IWT, as recommended by the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/189):*
 - (a) Coordinate and support measures to modernize inland water fleet at the pan-European level;
 - (b) Promote the use of River Information Service and other information communication technologies;
 - (c) Assist member States in responding effectively to new market requirements;
 - (d) Assist member States in addressing the labour market shortages at the pan-European level;
 - (e) Assist member States in tackling environmental challenges and the IWT carbon footprint;
 - (f) Assist member States in reinforcing the institutional and regulatory framework of IWT at the pan-European level.
5. *Harmonize the legal framework for international inland water transport*
 - (a) Promote the 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;
 - (b) Consider 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' certificates) 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' certificates issued on their basis;
 - (c) Undertake other activities aimed at further harmonizing and simplifying the international legal framework for inland water transport operations.

6. *Undertake other activities related to regional and international cooperation or requested by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee:*
 - (a) Cooperate with the European Commission, River Commissions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other United Nations regional commissions and organizations or bodies of the United Nations system;
 - (b) Collaborate closely with other subsidiary bodies of ITC and other UNECE bodies on matters of common interest;
 - (c) Support ITC in addressing cross-sectorial issues, such as inland transport and security and inland transport and environment.
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