



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 August 2013

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 16–18 October 2013

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation: Expert Group on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation (IEG)

Provisional agenda for the first meeting of the Expert Group on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation (IEG)

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. At its fifty-sixth session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) adopted the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation (IEG) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/193, para. 26). It decided to convene its first meeting in conjunction with the established sessions of SC.3 and the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) depending on further developments in this field and following the completion of the required administrative steps within UNECE.
2. At its seventy-fifth session, the Inland Transport Committee endorsed the establishment of the IEG (ECE/TRANS/236, para. 30).
3. At its forty-second session, the SC.3/WP.3 agreed on a provisional agenda for the first meeting of the IEG (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/84, para. 40). At its forty-third session it decided to ask SC.3 if it would be appropriate to schedule the first meeting of the IEG in February or June 2014, with due consideration of the ongoing work being carried out in this field (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/86, para. 30).

4. The Working Party may wish to consider the annotated provisional agenda reproduced below and decide as appropriate.

II. Annotated provisional agenda for the first meeting of the IEG

A. Provisional agenda

1. Revision of the Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster's Certificates in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (Resolution No. 31, revised).
2. Draft amendment proposals to chapter 23 of the DC Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels, "Crews and personnel".
3. Comments of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine on the Standards of Training and Certification in Inland Navigation (STCIN) tables to be annexed to the new EU legal instrument under preparation.
4. Local knowledge requirements in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine.
5. Work plan.
6. Other business.
7. Next meeting.

B. Annotations

1. Revision of the Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmaster's Certificates in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (Resolution No. 31, revised)

The goal of Resolution No. 31 was to provide a general framework for the mutual recognition of the boatmasters' certificates, identifying the minimum criteria for issuance of the certificates. The Resolution was amended in 2009 based on the comparative analysis of the existing requirements in the European Union, Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, the Danube Commission (DC) and the International Sava River Basin Commission (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/183, para. 15). This Resolution is applied by Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The IEG will be invited to decide whether, considering the progress made in the ongoing work on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates, the revised Resolution No. 31 requires further revision at this stage.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/184

2. Draft amendment proposals to chapter 23 of the DC Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels, "Crews and personnel"

The draft revised chapter 23 "Crews and personnel" of the DC Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels was transmitted to SC.3/WP.3 at its forty-second session as the concerted proposal of DC member States

(ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/84, para. 46). At its forty-third session, SC.3/WP.3 decided to transmit the document prepared by the secretariat with considerations on possible revision of chapter 23 “Crews” of Resolution No. 61 based on the draft revised text submitted by the DC to the IEG for consideration (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/86, para. 33).

The IEG may wish to consider the text of the draft revised chapter 23 of the DC Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (IEG/2014/1) and the analysis by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2013/12) and decide whether these provisions could be placed in a different instrument, e.g. a new resolution.

Documentation: IEG/2014/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2013/12

3. Comments of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine on the Standards of Training and Certification in Inland Navigation (STCIN) tables to be annexed to the new EU legal instrument under preparation

A Joint Working Group composed of representatives of the Inland Waterway Transport Educational Network (EDINNA), the European Barge Union (EBU), the European Skippers Organisation (ESO), the European Transport Workers Federation (ETF), Platina, the DC and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) developed, in 2011, Standards of Training and Certification for personnel in Inland Navigation (STCIN). The STCIN concept focuses only on professional competences, leaving national curricula untouched. STCIN follows the set-up of four elements: (1) competences, (2) knowledge, understanding and proficiency, (3) methods for demonstrating competence (4) criteria for evaluating competence. Under this project consolidated tables of knowledge, skills and proficiency for operational and management level have been developed and are reproduced in document IEG/2014/2. The delegations of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine are invited to comment on the tables. In particular, whether any different competencies, knowledge, understanding and proficiency, methods of demonstrating competence and evaluation criteria apply in their respective countries.

The IEG may wish to evaluate the comments received and decide to submit them to EDINNA for consideration.

Documentation: IEG/2014/2

4. Local knowledge requirements in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine

UNECE publishes an updated list of local requirements existing in UNECE member States at its annual SC.3 sessions. This overview aims at rationalizing and unifying the requirements on verifying the knowledge and navigating skills of boatmasters on specific stretches of inland waterways.

The delegations of Belarus, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine are invited to verify the information on local knowledge requirements contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2010/12. The delegations of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Moldova are invited to advise if any local knowledge requirements apply on their inland waterways.

The IEG may wish to consider the updated list of local knowledge requirements and exchange views on how these local knowledge requirements could be rationalized and unified to the extent possible and in cooperation with River Commissions.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2010/12

5. Work plan

The IEG may wish to consider the work plan prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the IEG (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2012/4, para. 9) as reproduced in document IEG/2014/3. It may wish to modify the work plan as appropriate and decide to submit it to SC.3 for adoption.

Documentation: IEG/2014/3, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2012/4

6. Other business

The IEG may wish to add any relevant issues for discussion under this agenda item.

7. Next meeting

The IEG may wish to decide on the date and time of its next meeting.
