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Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

Forty-fourth session

Geneva, 12-14 February 2014

Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for pan-European River Information Services (RIS): Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services (RIS) (Resolution No. 57)

Comments on the proposal on RIS related definitions

Transmitted by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine

1. The CCNR has discussed within its Working Group on River Information Services (RIS) the proposal tabled by the Russian Federation (Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 17 (2013) presented at the forty-third session (June 2013) of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation).
2. The purpose of this proposal is to include the RIS definitions of the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure (PIANC) in UNECE Resolution No. 57. The Working Group came to the conclusion that this inclusion would be contrary to the intentions of PIANC to have only one source for the definitions. The CCNR delegations therefore decided that they will not support the proposal of the Russian Federation and asked the CCNR Secretariat to inform the UNECE accordingly.
3. PIANC, after intensive discussion in its own working group on RIS and in InCom, its Inland Navigation Commission, and after considering different aspects, decided to maintain the RIS definitions in one place only. Further, PIANC came to the conclusion that the CCNR with its permanent and well-functioning Working Group on RIS was the right forum for doing so. Therefore PIANC's InCom and the CCNR Secretariat agreed on Terms of Reference for the maintenance and the CCNR Secretariat set up the system for the maintenance.
4. In the view of the CCNR, no aspect or argument of the time has changed and therefore, there is no reason to shift to an arrangement, where the definitions are maintained in different places and by different organizations. This would also lead to increase the administrative work. The CCNR has informed PIANC's InCom accordingly, expecting that it does not agree with the definitions as developed by PIANC become part of a UNECE resolution. The UNECE resolution may instead refer to the RIS definition website (<http://www.risdefinitions.org/>).