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Working Party on Inland Water Transport

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

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Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda

Recreational navigation: Status of Resolution No.40

Application of Resolution No. 40

Transmitted by the European Boating Association

1. UNECE Resolution 40 sets out the basis on which the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (or ICC) is issued by or on behalf of signatory Governments.
2. It has been brought to the EBA's attention, however, that two organizations in North America are issuing certificates that are purported to be ICCs but which do not conform to the provisions of Resolution 40: these are the American Yachting Association (AYA) based in the United States of America and the International Sail and Power Academy (ISPA) based in Canada. It is not known whether either AYA or ISPA is authorized by its respective Government to issue such certificates but it is clear that neither the USA nor Canada has adopted Resolution 40.
3. As can be seen from its website (<http://www.americanyachting.org>), the AYA issues what are purported to be ICCs in both the booklet and card format. Although the AYA acknowledges on its website that the USA has not adopted UNECE ITC Resolution 40 and that the AYA "Certificate of Proficiency" is not the same as an ICC, the documents themselves are clearly designed to give the impression to anyone looking at them that they are in fact ICCs. The documents are entitled "International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft" and they even bear the wording "in conformity with Resolution No. 40 ...".
4. The EBA's particular concern over the documents issued by AYA is that the AYA does not conduct any practical assessment of the applicant's competence before issuing a certificate. The AYA simply asks the applicant to confirm in writing in very simple terms the extent of their boating experience. This does not in any way conform to the requirements specified in Annex 1 of Resolution 40.
5. Unlike the AYA, the ISPA does deliver a range of practical and shore-based courses and conduct assessments but it is far from clear to what extent, if at all, the courses and assessments conform to the requirements specified in Annex 1 of Resolution 40. ISPA's website is <http://www.ispa.com/courses-a-exams/course-matrix/course-matrix.html>. The EBA strongly encourages the adoption of Resolution 40 by all members of UNECE and by

any other country that wishes to do so, in order to facilitate formal acceptance of the ICC throughout Europe and further afield. It is therefore encouraging that the value of the ICC as a certificate seems to be recognized in North America.

6. If, however, certificates that are purported to be ICCs are issued by commercial organisations without the authority of a signatory Government and/or without complying with the requirements specified in Annex 1 of Resolution 40 then the credibility of the ICC will very rapidly be undermined and it could cease to function as an effective facilitator of recreational boating activity within Europe. This would not be in the interests of those countries that have adopted Resolution 40 nor would it be in the interests of those recreational boaters who hold ICCs issued in accordance with Resolution 40.

7. The EBA therefore respectfully requests that UNECE members be informed that the certificates issued by AYA and ISPA:

- are not issued under the authority of a signatory Government in accordance with Resolution 40;
 - do not conform to the requirements specified in Annex 1 of Resolution 40;
 - are not valid ICCs; and
 - should not be treated as being equivalent to ICCs.
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