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### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Inland Water Transport

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

###### Forty-sixth session

Geneva, 18–20 February 2015

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

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## **I. Attendance**

1. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (hereafter, the Working Party or SC.3/WP.3) held its forty-sixth session from 18 to 20 February 2015 in Geneva.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation and Slovakia.
3. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also took part in the session: the Danube Commission and the Moselle Commission.
4. The representative of the Inland Waterway Transport Educational Network (EDINNA) was present at the invitation of the secretariat. The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) was also present as observer.

## **II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)**

5. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda, as supplemented by informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 1 (2015) in order to take into account informal documents SC.3/WP.3 Nos. 2 to 5.
6. In accordance with established practice, it was agreed that only the decisions taken would appear in the draft report on the session, the full report would be drawn up by the Chair with the assistance of the secretariat, and distributed later.

## **III. Election of officers (agenda item 2)**

7. Mr. I. Ignatov (Bulgaria) was elected Chair for the current session and for the forty-seventh session of the Working Party.
8. Ms. D. Filipović (Croatia) was elected Vice-Chair for the current session and for the forty-seventh session of the Working Party.

## **IV. Results of the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (agenda item 3)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/197

9. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat about the results of the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3), which took place from 12 to 14 November 2014.
10. The Working Party noted that SC.3 had agreed on the key topics of the future high level international conference suggested by SC.3/WP.3 at its forty-fifth session.
11. The Working Party noted that SC.3 had adopted several amendments to various UNECE resolutions on inland water transport. In particular, SC.3 adopted the fifth revision of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) (Resolution No. 24).

## **V. Inland waterway infrastructure (agenda item 4)**

### **A. European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/120/Rev.3

12. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat about the current status of the amendments to AGN and about the progress on the third revised edition of the Agreement which was available on the UNECE website ([www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/sc3\\_legalinst.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/sc3_legalinst.html)).

### **B. Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (“Blue Book”)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.2 and Add.1

13. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 had agreed on the new length value for E 41, section “KURSHSKIY ZALIV and NEMUNAS” (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2014/2, para. 5), but noted that this section should be split into two new sections: one section concerning only the Lithuanian territory and one section for the crossborder waterway shared between Lithuania and the Russian Federation.

14. As no amendment proposal concerning these two new sections was made during the session, the Working Party decided to postpone the discussion on this question to its forty-seventh session.

### **C. Inventory of Most Important Bottlenecks and Missing Links in the E Waterway Network (Resolution No. 49, revised)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/159/Rev.1

15. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat about the reconstruction of an old bridge (1,868.14 km) in Bratislava, which started in 2014. The targeted new height under bridge is 9.10 m. Slovakia would inform the secretariat when work is completed and may ask for an amendment to paragraph 1 of the section on strategic bottlenecks for Slovakia accordingly.

16. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat that no new amendment to the list of most important bottlenecks and missing links, as set out in the annex of Resolution No. 49, revised, was submitted.

## **VI. Mutual recognition of boatmasters’ certificates and professional requirements in inland navigation: Third meeting of the International Expert Group (agenda item 5)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2015/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2015/2, Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 2 (2015)

17. The Working Party was reminded that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 had agreed to devote a half-day of the forty-sixth session of SC.3/WP.3 to the third meeting of the International Expert Group on Mutual Recognition of Boatmasters’ Certificates and

Harmonization of Professional Requirements in Inland Navigation (IEG). SC.3 also suggested that the provisional agenda of the third IEG meeting be the same as the agenda of the second meeting.

**A. Exchange of information on boatmasters' certificates in inland navigation and professional requirements in inland navigation in the ECE region**

18. On the invitation of the Working Party, Mr. H. A. L. Mintjes (EDINNA) presented the current status of the work on the Standards of Training and Certification for personnel in Inland Navigation (STCIN) tables. EDINNA informed the Working Party that the impact assessment of the revision of Directive 96/50/EC failed due to a lack of proof of a potential safety issue in inland water transport. The Common Expert Group was currently gathering information on potential safety issues and incident statistics. EDINNA also underlined that the revision of the Directive concerned not only the boatmaster profession but all the crew members' professions.

**B. Proposal on means and measures to make the professions of boatmaster and other crew members employed in inland navigation more attractive and to bring these professions into line with modern requirements**

19. At its forty-fifth session, the Working Party suggested that Resolution No. 31 could be revised to bring it into line with modern requirements.

20. The Working Party considered the secretariat proposal for a revision of Resolution No. 31 as presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2015/1 and decided to continue the discussion on this topic at its forty-seventh session.

**C. Analysis of existing national, regional and international instruments relating to the mutual recognition and modernization of professional qualifications in inland navigation**

21. At its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 asked the secretariat, possibly in cooperation with the Group of Volunteer experts on Resolution No. 61, to prepare for the forty-sixth session of SC.3/WP.3 a proposal of a new document presenting the content of Chapter 23 of Resolution No. 61. The current technical part of Chapter 23 would remain in Resolution No. 61.

22. The Working Party considered the secretariat proposal for a revision of Resolution No. 61 as presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2015/2 and decided to continue the discussion on this topic at its forty-seventh session.

**D. Local knowledge requirements: Drawing up criteria to help determine the conditions where local knowledge requirements could be necessary**

23. At its second meeting, the IEG suggested that in order to facilitate its work on local knowledge requirements, UNECE member States could provide the secretariat with information on these requirements in their national legislation and on how the examinations for boatmaster certification apply the requirements (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2010/12 and Corr.1). The Working Party asked the secretariat to include in the questionnaire for the forty-seventh session of SC.3/WP.3 an item on this subject.

24. EDINNA suggested that the number of local knowledge requirements should be kept to a minimum, given that modern education and training simulators can prepare the applicants for a large variety of situations. EDINNA also reminded the Working Party that for some waterways, in many cases the competent authorities consider whole sections as special stretches when only a part of these sections effectively required local knowledge. The Danube Commission reminded the Working Party that the Danube had very specific navigation conditions which could not be defined in general criteria and that the impact on safety should always be kept in consideration in this case.

25. The secretariat informed the IEG that it had not received any new information on the local knowledge requirements from UNECE member States.

**E. Discussion on establishing the procedures of expert training and examination within ECE region, on the basis of the synthesis of the information submitted by UNECE member States and the Standards of Training and Certification for personnel in Inland Navigation developed by PLATINA**

26. The secretariat reminded IEG that STCIN tables were available in the English, French and Russian languages (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2014/16 and Corr.1). It invited the member States to comment on these tables and, in particular, whether any different competencies, knowledge, understanding and proficiency, methods of demonstrating competence and evaluation criteria apply in their respective countries.

**F. Other business**

27. EDINNA asked if the Working Party had any comments on the concept of electronic service record books mentioned in Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 2 (2015). Austria remarked that from a theoretical point of view the concept was interesting, but there were issues concerning privacy and serious doubts on the feasibility of such electronic service record books.

**G. Next meeting**

28. The Working Party agreed to devote a half-day of the forty-seventh session of SC.3/WP.3 to the fourth meeting of the IEG. It suggested that the provisional agenda be the same as the agenda of the third meeting of IEG.

**VII. European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) (Resolution No. 24, revised): Fifth revised edition (agenda item 6)**

*Documentation:* Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 5 (2015)

29. The secretariat informed the Working Party about the adoption by SC.3 of the consolidated amendment proposal to Resolution No. 24 (CEVNI 5) and about the publication of the paper version and online version of CEVNI in its fifth revised edition which should be made available before end of June 2015.

30. The secretariat also informed the Working Party that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 decided not to upgrade the CEVNI Expert Group to an official UNECE working body and

to keep its current informal ad hoc Group status that meets at the request of SC.3 or SC.3/WP.3.

31. The Working Party considered it not necessary that the CEVNI Expert Group meets before the forty-seventh session of SC.3/WP.3, as the work on implementing CEVNI 5 into the regulations of several UNECE member States and River Commissions was still ongoing.

32. The secretariat informed the Working Party about new amendments to the Police Regulations for the Navigation of the Rhine (RPNR) adopted recently by the Rhine Commission (CCNR) and presented in Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 5 (2015). The Working Party invited the River Commissions to inform the secretariat, when necessary, about the evolution of their own inland waterways regulations in comparison with CEVNI in its fifth revised edition.

## **VIII. Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61, revised) (agenda item 7)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Rev.1 and Amends.1 and 2;  
ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2015/3

33. The secretariat informed the Working Party that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 adopted new amendments to Resolution No. 61, revised (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2014/6) and corrections to language discrepancies in the amendments to chapter 4 of the Resolution submitted by the Danube Commission (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/197 para. 44).

34. The Working Party approved the corrections to remaining language discrepancies (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2015/3) in the approved amendments to chapters 15, 22a and appendix 1 of Resolution No. 61.

## **IX. Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for pan-European River Information Services (RIS) (agenda item 8)**

### **A. Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services (RIS) (Resolution No. 57)**

*Documentation:* Informal documents SC.3/WP.3 Nos. 3 and 4 (2015)

35. The secretariat informed the Working Party that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 adopted as pending, the draft addition to the annex to Resolution No. 57, as presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2014/10, prior to adopting a new package of amendments to Resolution No. 57.

36. The secretariat reminded the Working Party that former Resolution No. 60 (now divided into two Resolutions, Nos. 79 and 80) was mentioned several times in the annex to Resolution No. 57. The Working Party asked the secretariat to draft an amendment proposal to Resolution No. 57 in order to update the references to former Resolution No. 60.

37. The secretariat informed the Working Party that the Inland ECDIS Expert Group suggested that a revision of Resolution No. 48 be added on the agenda of the forty-seventh session of SC.3/WP.3 (Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 4 (2015)).

38. The Working Party asked the secretariat to add the revision of Resolution No. 48 onto the agenda of the forty-seventh session of SC.3/WP.3 and to submit the relevant working documents.

39. The secretariat informed the Working Party about a communication from the Chair of Vessel Tracking and Tracing Expert Group on AIS Aids to Navigation report messages in inland waterways (Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 3 (2015)).

40. The Working Party asked the secretariat to submit Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 3 (2015) as a working document for the forty-seventh session of SC.3/WP.3 and invited UNECE member States to forward it to their experts for consideration.

## **B. International standards for Notices to Skippers and for Electronic Ship Reporting in inland Navigation**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/175 and Amend.1; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/198; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/199

41. The secretariat informed the Working Party that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 adopted the division of former Resolution No. 60 into two resolutions, International Standards for Electronic Ship Reporting in Inland Navigation (Resolution No. 79) and International Standards for Notices to Skippers in Inland Navigation (Resolution No. 80).

### **1. International Standards for Electronic Ship Reporting in Inland Navigation (Resolution No. 79)**

42. The Working Party invited UNECE member States to inform the secretariat about their acceptance of Resolution No. 79.

### **2. International Standards for Notices to Skippers in Inland Navigation (Resolution No. 80)**

43. The Working Party invited UNECE member States to inform the secretariat about their acceptance of Resolution No. 80.

## **C. International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (VTT) (Resolution No. 63)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2014/9

44. The secretariat informed the Working Party that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 adopted the consolidated proposal of Resolution No. 63 revised, as presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2014/9.

## **X. Recreational navigation (agenda item 9)**

*Documentation:* ECE/TRANS/SC.3/147/Rev.4; informal document SC.3 No. 3 (2014)

45. The secretariat informed the Working Party that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 adopted the fourth revised edition of the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (Resolution No. 40) as presented in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/147/Rev.4. During this session, SC.3 adopted also the guidelines to Resolution No. 40, as presented in informal document SC.3 No. 3 (2014).

46. The secretariat informed the Working Party that it had not received requests or corrections from delegations to the map of the European recreational inland navigation.

## **XI. Other business (agenda item 10)**

### **A. Theme topic for the next SC.3 session**

47. The secretariat informed the Working Party that at its fifty-eighth session, SC.3 approved the decision of SC.3/WP.3 on the theme of the fifty-ninth session of SC.3 which would be “The development of the Dniepr-Vistula section of the E40 waterway”.

48. The Working Party asked the secretariat to add in the questionnaire and onto the agenda of the forty-seventh session of SC.3/WP.3 an item on this topic and reminded the Working Party that Belarus, in particular, may wish to participate in the preparation of this theme.

### **B. High-level international conference on inland navigation**

49. The Working Party asked the member States and River Commissions to inform the secretariat, through the questionnaire for the forty-seventh session of SC.3/WP.3, about the topic they could participate in for the preparation of the conference that will possibly take place in 2016. The key topics would be: (a) waterways infrastructure projects and, in particular, the project of development for the E 40 waterway; (b) making jobs of crew, members employed in inland navigation more attractive; (c) recognition of boatmasters’ and crew members certificates at the international level; and (d) development of common educational standards and professional requirements in inland navigation.

## **XII. Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)**

50. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party adopted the decisions taken at its forty-sixth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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