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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Inland Water Transport****Working Party on the Standardization of Technical
and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation****Forty-ninth session**

Geneva, 22–24 June 2016

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Promotion of River Information Services (RIS) as well as other Information
and Communication Technologies (ICT) in inland navigation:****International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (VTT)
(Resolution No. 63)****Amendments to the International Standard for Tracking and
Tracing on Inland Waterways****Transmitted by the Chair of the Vessel Tracking and Tracing Expert
Group****I. Mandate**

1. This document is submitted in line with Cluster 5: Inland Waterway Transport, paragraph 5.1 of the programme of work 2016–2017 (ECE/TRANS/2016/28/Add.1) adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-eighth session on 27 February 2016.
2. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (hereafter the Working Party) at its forty-eighth session was informed on the outcome of the River Information Services (RIS) Week (24–27 November 2015, Lille, France), in particular, revision of RIS standards International Expert Groups (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/96, para. 40). It was noted that this revision might require corresponding UNECE resolutions to be updated.
3. The Working Party may wish to take note of detailed information on a new version of the Vessel Tracking and Tracing (VTT) Standard, Edition 2.0.

II. Draft Vessel Tracking and Tracing Standard Edition 2.0

4. The European Union (EU) intends to update the following RIS standards introduced by the Commission Regulations:

- Electronic Chart and Display System (Inland ECDIS): Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 909/2013 of 10 September 2013 on the technical specifications for the electronic chart display and information system for inland navigation (Inland ECDIS) referred to in Directive 2005/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on harmonized river information services (RIS) on inland waterways in the Community (Directive 2005/44/EC);
- Electronic ship reporting (ERI): Commission Regulation (EU) No. 164/2010 of 25 January 2010 on the technical specifications for electronic ship reporting in inland navigation referred to in Article 5 of Directive 2005/44/EC;
- Notices to skippers (NtS): Commission Regulation (EC) No. 416/2007 of 22 March 2007 concerning the technical specifications for Notices to Skippers as referred to in Article 5 of Directive 2005/44/EC;
- Vessel Tracking and Tracing (VTT): Commission Regulation (EC) No. 415/2007 of 13 March 2007 concerning the technical specifications for vessel tracking and tracing systems referred to in Article 5 of Directive 2005/44/EC.

5. The EU has asked the four RIS Expert groups (EG): IECDIS EG, ERI EG, NtS EG and VTT EG to prepare a draft updated edition of the respective standards. The EU intends to publish all four updated RIS standards together at the same time in 2016.

6. The draft updated editions of the RIS standards were provided to the EU by the end of 2015. The VTT EG has prepared the updated edition of their standard, VTT Standard Edition 2.0, and approved this edition during the last VTT EG meeting on 24 November 2015 in Lille, France.

7. The goal of the update is to consolidate the document and to streamline the VTT standard. The update of the standard aims to focus on the definition of Inland AIS and should contain less description of how the requirements were derived. All changes to the standard are purely editorial; the technical requirements stay the same. There will be no change regarding the technical implementation of Inland AIS.

8. The following changes of the standard have been implemented in the draft VTT Standard Edition 2.0:

- Chapter 1: A new, short, introduction has been added;
- Chapter 2: The description of use of VTT has been streamlined and simplified;
- Chapter 3: The content was updated and outdated information and references were deleted, only those regarding inland Application Specific Messages (ASM) have been retained which have been implemented into the Inland AIS mobile station. The remaining ASMs have been moved to a new document on ASM, the so-called Inventory of ASM (working title);
- Chapter 4: A new chapter that introduces requirements regarding AIS Class B stations on Inland waterways has been added.
- Annexes:
 - Annex A has been updated; Annex B and C have been removed from the standard and moved to the new ASM document;

- As a result of the previous bullet point, Annex D has become Annex B and Annex E has become Annex C, both Annexes have also been updated.

9. The handling of ASM is as follows:

- Most ASMs have been removed from the standard but a new Inventory of ASMs has been created which will be handled by the VTT EG.
- The inland specific messages with FI 10 and FI 55 have been retained in the standard because they are processed in the Inland AIS station itself.
- The intention of moving the ASMs to another document is to keep the elaboration of ASMs more flexible in future and to have a more stable VTT standard due to few expected changes.

10. One aspect of the VTT Standard Edition 2.0 which remains under discussion is where to publish a new Inventory of ASM. This document is not a part of the updated VTT standard; however, the VTT Standard Edition 2.0 will refer to this document.

11. The Inventory of ASM needs to be published by an official body to be able to be referred to according the current regulations of the EU. An example is the Inland ECDIS standard of the EU which refers to document published by UNECE.

12. The VTT Expert Group will provide the VTT Standards Edition 2.0 for consideration by the Working Party as soon as it has been finalized and approved by the EU.
