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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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Geneva, 22–24 June 2016

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Follow-up to the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe: A new strategy proposal

EBA Statement

Submitted by the European Boating Association (EBA)

The EBA supports the proposed overarching goals and objectives for 2016-2021 as set out in detail in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2016/10, insofar as they relate to recreational navigation.

We also support the actions proposed to reach these goals as set out under the sub heading “Promotion of recreational navigation and water tourism” on page 4 of the document.

In particular the EBA considers that the UNECE Map of the European Recreational Inland Navigation Network (AGNP) could be developed to provide a valuable source of information for EBA Members and recreational boaters in general who wish to navigate the inland waterways of Europe. As previously indicated the EBA would be happy to assist UNECE with this work.

We would suggest however that an additional action should be included concerning promoting the adoption of Resolution 40. As part of this action UNECE might wish to take steps to encourage those UNECE Member States who have adopted Resolution 14 but who have not yet adopted Resolution 40 to do so, in order to simplify the regulatory framework.

We would also suggest that equivalent provisions are added to the terms of reference of SC.3 and WP.3 (paragraph 3g).

The EBA believes that Resolution 40 offers a unique opportunity to facilitate recreational navigation and water tourism throughout Europe.

The EBA Membership comprises organisations from EU Member States and from European countries which are not members of the EU or any of the river commissions. As we heard yesterday new opportunities are emerging to expand recreational boating and water tourism within UNECE Member States that are not members of the EU.

The EBA is keen to promote ease of recreational navigation between all European countries. The EBA sees UNECE as playing a vital role in achieving this aspiration and the EBA would therefore wish to see UNECE continue its involvement in those pan-European regulatory frameworks that are applicable to recreational craft of any size.
