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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Sixty-second session

Geneva, 3-5 October 2018

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Follow-up of the International Ministerial Conference

“Connecting by Inland Navigation”

Draft resolution of the Inland Transport Committee

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. This document is submitted in line with cluster 5: Inland Waterway Transport, paragraph (a) 5.2 of the Transport subprogramme of work 2018-2019 (ECE/TRANS/2018/21/Add.1) adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its eightieth session (23 February 2018).

2. At its fifty-third session, the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) welcomed the adoption of the ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting” at the International Ministerial Conference “Connecting by Inland Navigation” held in Wroclaw, Poland, on 18-19 April 2018, jointly by the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland and UNECE.¹ SC.3/WP.3 recommended the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) at its sixty-second session to prepare a draft resolution of the Inland Transport Committee in support of the declaration.

3. The draft prepared by the secretariat is contained in the annex. SC.3 may wish to consider and finalize the draft and submit it to the eighty-first session of ITC for adoption. SC.3 may wish to propose other actions as a follow-up to the declaration.

¹ The text of the declaration is available in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2018/8/Rev.1.

II. Background

4. The UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/189), endorsed in 2011, proposed an international conference for countries with a vested interest in inland navigation. The declared aim of this conference was to address modern challenges and respond effectively to new market requirements, to continue raising awareness about the inland water transport advantages in comparison with and/or in conjunction with other modes of transport at high-level policy events.

5. International high-level events on inland water transport held in Europe over the past 30 years were:

- the pan-European Ministerial Conference dedicated to Timely Issues of Inland Waterway Transport (11 September 1991, Budapest) and in preparation for the First pan-European Ministerial Conference (Prague, October 1991)
- the pan-European Conference on inland waterway transport “Accelerating pan-European cooperation towards a free and strong inland waterway transport” (5 and 6 September 2001, Rotterdam (Netherlands))
- the pan-European Conference on inland waterway transport “Inland navigation: A key element of the future pan-European transport system” (13 and 14 September 2006, Bucharest)

6. The ministerial declarations adopted at the conferences have been fundamental in the coordinated development of inland waterways, in that they proposed harmonized action plans towards improving the role of inland water transport and laid down the foundations of new multimodal network of pan-European transport corridors.

7. The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) adopted its resolutions Nos. 250 and 258 in support of the ministerial declarations and plans of actions aiming at their implementation. SC.3 was asked to regularly inform ITC of the progress made in the implementation of its resolutions.

8. The ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting” adopted on 18 April in Wroclaw (Poland) consolidated the progress achieved since the Bucharest Conference and proposed harmonized actions at a global level in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals while ensuring the engagement of all regions and countries with navigable waterways.

Annex

Facilitating the Development of Inland Water Transport

Draft Resolution of the Inland Transport Committee

Resolution No. ...

(adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on ...)

The Inland Transport Committee,

Reaffirming the commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals which are relevant to inland water transport, such as building resilient infrastructure of inland waterway network, ensuring safety, accessibility and affordability inland water transport and links with energy and the environment, fostering innovation,

Recalling the ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting”, adopted by the international ministerial conference on inland water transport (18-19 April 2018, Wroclaw, Poland),

Convinced that the outcome of this conference should bring practical value in terms of safety, environmental aspects, logistics, attractiveness and benefits for the economy and *reiterating* its support of the objectives and actions set out by the above-mentioned ministerial declaration,

Noting with satisfaction the outcome of the ministerial conference on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Convention regarding the Regime of Navigation on the Danube (29 June 2018, Belgrade) and the sixth congress of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine on the occasion of the hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the Mannheim Act, to be held on 17 October 2018 in Mannheim (Germany)),

Bearing in mind the overall objective to develop efficient, balanced and flexible transport systems, which meet the economic, social, environmental, and safety requirements of ECE member governments,

Conscious of the important role of inland water transport as a significant part of a balanced transport system, especially its safety level, efficiency in terms of energy and costs, low emissions and lack of congestion, contribution to reducing transport and logistics costs,

Aware that the changes in the legislative framework and institutional structure of inland water transport in Europe, recent developments and trends provide new opportunities and challenges for the sector,

Acknowledging the role of modern technologies, innovations and digitalization in ensuring navigation safety and better logistics integration,

Recognizing the need for joining forces to extract the significant, still untapped, potential of the sector and, therefore, gain significant political support at the highest level,

Convinced that ECE, in close cooperation with other relevant international organizations, can and should support to the maximum extent possible, the realization of the tasks set by ministers in the Wroclaw declaration,

Invites member States to develop national action plans for the implementation of the objectives and strategic actions set out by the Wroclaw declaration and inform regularly the Working Party on Inland Water Transport about progress,

Invites member States, River Commissions, international and public organizations and other stakeholders to maintain policy dialogue on good practices and measures relevant to the implementation of the objectives taking advantage of the framework provided by ECE,

Requests the Working Party on Inland Water Transport, in line with its strategy for 2016-2021, endorsed by the Inland Transport Committee on 24 February 2017, and in close cooperation with the European Commission, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, the Danube Commission, the Mosel Commission and the International Sava River Commission, to proceed with the implementation of the objectives and strategic actions mentioned above, and to amend its programme of work accordingly,

Requests the Working Party on Inland Water Transport to regularly report on the progress in the implementation of this resolution to the Inland Transport Committee.
