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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Inland Water Transport****Fifty-sixth session**

Geneva, 10–12 October 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation****Draft Terms of Reference (ToR) of the UNECE International Expert Group on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation (IEG)****Note by the secretariat****I. Mandate**

1. In accordance with the UNECE guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists,<sup>1</sup> the UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3), upon recommendation of the UNECE Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/80, paras. 9–16), decided to establish an International Expert Group on mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization of professional requirements in inland navigation (IEG). This action is in line with Policy Recommendation No. 5 of the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/189, paras. 217–219).
2. This document presents IEG's Terms of Reference (ToR).

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<sup>1</sup> Approved by the Executive Committee of the UNECE on 31 March 2010 (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1).

## **II. Scope of issues and achievements expected**

3. IEG will provide a forum for exchanging information on boatmasters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterways and professional requirements in inland navigation applicable in the ECE region, including the regimes established in member countries, the European Union (EU) and individual river basins.
4. IEG will analyse existing national, regional and international instruments in this field and prepare proposals aimed at further harmonizing mutual recognition and modernization of professional qualifications in inland navigation at the pan-European level on the basis of existing SC.3 resolutions.
5. IEG will establish a list of stretches of waterways, the knowledge of which must be verified prior to granting recognition of professional qualifications for each river basin.
6. IEG will regularly analyse the trends in the development of the inland waterway fleet, may propose minimum manning requirements for each type of vessel, and provide a description of required competencies for crew members based on new generations of inland navigation vessels and equipment.
7. IEG may wish to consider means and measures to make the profession of boatmaster and other crew members employed in inland navigation more attractive and to bring these professions in line with modern requirements (environment, safety, etc.).
8. IEG may also wish to consider the procedure of expert training and examination established within the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway (ADN) as a mechanism that could be taken into account for boatmasters' certificates and professional requirements in inland navigation.

## **III. Methods of work**

9. At its first meeting, IEG will adopt a work plan with clearly defined objectives, activities, time schedule of implementation. In doing so, IEG will take into consideration the mandates and the results of the work of existing expert groups and, in particular, the relevant working groups established by the European Commission and River Commissions.
10. IEG will meet at the Palais des Nations in Geneva or other suitable venues and will report to the annual sessions of SC.3 and, as appropriate, to the sessions of SC.3/WP.3.
11. Members of IEG, with the support of the secretariat as resources permit, will undertake the substantive work, in particular the preparation of documentation for the meetings and the reports for submission to SC.3.
12. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of the sessions of IEG in English, French and Russian will be provided by UNECE for sessions held at the Palais des Nations in conjunction with sessions of SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3.
13. Participation in IEG is open to all United Nations member countries, the European Commission and River Commissions. Other stakeholders, such as the Inland Waterway Transport Educational Network (EDINNA), are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations rules and practices.

#### **IV. Secretariat**

14. UNECE will provide secretariat services for IEG and shall ensure close cooperation with all participants of UNECE member countries, the European Commission, River Commissions and interested stakeholders.

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