

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
26 July 2023

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Inland Water Transport****Sixty-seventh session**

Geneva, 11–13 October 2023

Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Programme of Work and Biennial Evaluation for 2024–2025**Performance Assessment for 2022–2023, Draft Programme of Work and Biennial Evaluation for 2024–2025****Note by the secretariat****I. Mandate**

1. This document is submitted in line with the proposed Programme Budget for 2023, part V, Regional cooperation for development, section 20, Economic Development in Europe, Programme 17, Economic Development in Europe (A/77/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.6).
2. At its sixty-third session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) agreed to maintain the practice of the adoption of biennial programmes of work and the four-year plans for the future (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/210, paragraph 99).
3. SC.3 may wish to (a) review the work accomplished in 2022–2023 using the indicators of achievement as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2021/12, and (b) consider and adopt the programme of work for 2024–2025 as proposed below.

II. Performance Assessment for 2022–2023*

4. In 2022–2023, SC.3 held two sessions: sixty-sixth session on 12–14 October 2022 and sixty-seventh session on 11–13 October 2023. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) held four sessions: sixtieth session on 16–18 February 2022, sixty-first session on 29 June–1 July 2022, sixty-second session on 15–17 February 2023 and sixty-third session on 3–5 July 2023. In 2022, sessions were held in a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual participation as official meetings with simultaneous interpretation into English, French and Russian. Performance target was fully achieved: 12 meetings of SC.3 against 12 planned and 24 meetings of SC.3/WP.3 against 24 planned.
5. Following the special procedures to take decisions in formal meetings with remote participation adopted by EXCOM on 5 October 2020 (ECE/EX/2020/L.12), the decisions made at the hybrid meetings were circulated through all Geneva Permanent Representations

* Subject to the decisions of SC.3 taken at the present session.



for approval by the silence procedure of 72 hours by the participating delegations of the session. Related information is available on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) under <https://unece.org/silence-procedure>.

6. Thematic workshops and roundtable discussions held in 2022–2023:
 - Prevention of Pollution from Inland Waterway Vessels and Greening of the Inland Water Transport Sector (16 February 2022)
 - Towards a Modern, Sustainable and Resilient E Waterway Network (29 June 2022)
 - Development of Container Transport on Inland Waterways (12 October 2022)
 - Round table on facilitating the alignment between the *Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations* and the *European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance* (12 October 2022)
 - Information and Computerization Technologies and Intelligent Transport Systems in the Inland Water Transport Sector (15 February 2023)
 - Addressing Labour Market Challenges and Making the Sector More Attractive (3 July 2023)
 - Climate Change Mitigation Activities in Inland Water Transport (11 October 2023).
7. In its activities, SC.3 was guided by (a) the *Strategy of the Inland Transport Committee until 2030*; (b) the *White Paper on the Progress, Accomplishments and Future of Sustainable Inland Water Transport*; (c) the Wrocław ministerial declaration, (d) ITC resolution No. 265 and (e) its terms of reference.
8. Two official publications were prepared: (a) the *Glossary for Inland Water Transport including River Information Services* and (b) the fourth revision of the *Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of E Waterway Network* (the Blue Book).
9. SC.3 adopted the following documents which are available on the ECE website or will be available after the present session:
 - (a) Amendment No. 5 to the third revision of the Blue Book (2022) and the fourth revision of the Blue Book (2023);
 - (b) Amendments to the *European Code for Inland Waterways* (CEVNI) (2023);
 - (c) Amendment No. 2 to the *Inventory of Most Important Bottlenecks and Missing Links in the E Waterway Network*;
 - (d) Amendments Nos. 4 and 5 to the *Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels* (resolution No. 61, revision 2);
 - (e) Amendment No. 2 to the list of reception facilities for transfer of waste from vessels (appendix to the annex of resolution No. 21, “Prevention of Pollution of Inland Waterways by Vessels”)
 - (f) Revised *Guidelines and Criteria for Vessel Traffic Services on Inland Waterways* (annex to resolution No. 58);
 - (g) Other updated resolutions of SC.3.
10. In 2022–2023, the following meetings of informal expert groups were held:
 - (a) CEVNI Expert Group – 2 meetings, and
 - (b) Informal Expert Group on Recreational Navigation – 2 meetings.
11. SC.3 continued maintaining and updating the Blue Book online database and the database of specimens of the International Certificate for Operator of Pleasure Craft.

III. Draft Programme of Work for 2024–2025

12. The draft programme of work applies a results-based approach. It comprises, for each cluster of activities, an expected accomplishment and a list of outputs/activities proposed to be carried out in 2024–2025. The delivery of these outputs/activities is expected to contribute to achieving the expected results.

13. The outputs/activities have been listed under the cluster of activities to which they belong according to the following main categories: (a) meetings and related parliamentary documentation; (b) publications and other information material; and (c) technical cooperation, including seminars, workshops, training sessions and advisory services.

14. The objective of the programme of work is to contribute to the overarching objective of the ECE Transport Subprogramme to advance a regionally and globally sustainable inland transport system by making it safer, cleaner, more efficient and more affordable, both for freight transport and people's mobility.

15. The responsibility for the ECE Transport Subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Transport Division.

16. Outputs/activities to be delivered in the 2024–2025 biennium are as follows:

| <i>Description of cluster</i> | <i>Expected accomplishments</i> |
|--|---|
| 1. Organize a pan-European policy dialogue on the sustainable inland water transport issues | An improved and updated regulatory framework for inland water transport infrastructure and vessels in the ECE region, monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments, as well as enhanced cooperation of member States in addressing them. |
| 2. Promote a coordinated development of inland waterway infrastructure and the implementation of international conventions and agreements | |
| 3. Address safety and operational requirements in inland navigation, promote innovations and modernization of inland fleet and river-sea shipping | |
| 4. Promote integration of inland water transport in multimodal transport chains | |
| 5. Prevention of pollution from vessels and resilience of inland water transport to climate changes | |
| 6. Contribute to the harmonization of the legal framework for international inland water transport | |
| 7. Promote the attractiveness of the sector to the market and increasing its competitiveness, promote recreational navigation | |
| 8. Undertake other activities related to regional and international cooperation or requested by the ECE Inland Transport Committee | |
| Main actions by the Sustainable Transport Division: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide secretariat services to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3), the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) and their informal expert groups • Maintain an inventory of ECE resolutions on inland water transport issues • Prepare regular technical and ad hoc policy publications | |

| <i>Description of cluster</i> | <i>Expected accomplishments</i> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent ECE in the relevant meetings of regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies | |

A. Outputs/Activities

17. Meetings and related parliamentary documentation

(a) Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) (sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions in 2024, sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions in 2025) (four sessions, 24 meetings).

Documentation:

Agendas and reports of the sessions of the Working Party (8); a set of other documents on mandated issues including, but not limited to, amendment proposals to the *European Code for Inland Waterways* (CEVNI), the *European Code for Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways* (SIGNI) (resolution No. 90), *Prevention of Pollution of Inland Waterways by Vessels* (resolution No. 21, revision 2), the *Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels* (Resolution No. 61), the *Glossary for Inland Water Transport*, resolutions on River Information Services, automation in inland navigation and other SC.3 resolutions on technical and safety requirements and other related documents on newly mandated issues;

(b) Working Party on Inland Water Transport (sixty-eighth session in 2024 and sixty-ninth session in 2025) (two sessions, 12 meetings).

Documentation:

Agendas and reports of the annual sessions of the Working Party (4); a set of other documents on mandated issues including, but not limited to, the strategy of the Working Party, the draft programme of work and biennial evaluation (in the format prescribed by any updated ITC decision), documents on the status and amendments to AGN and other legal instruments relevant to inland navigation, the Blue Book, resolution No. 49; SC.3 resolutions and amendments to them on technical and safety requirements in inland navigation, prevention of pollution from vessels, fostering innovations and modernization of vessels, the *Glossary for Inland Water Transport*, resolutions on River Information Services, automation in inland navigation and other SC.3 resolutions on technical and safety requirements and other related documents on newly mandated issues, issues related to inland water transport statistics, recreational navigation; reports on the status of implementation of international agreements on inland navigation matters and SC.3 resolutions; studies of inland water transport issues in the ECE region and overview of river commissions' activities; documents on legal aspects of inland water transport operations; maps of inland waterways and other related documents on newly mandated issues.

18. Publications and other information material:

(a) Maintenance of a web-based inventory of ECE resolutions and documents in inland water transport issues;

(b) Publication of the revised *Guidelines to resolution No. 40*;

(c) Online versions of other relevant ECE resolutions, revised or amended by SC.3;

(d) Maintenance and further development of the online database of the E waterway network (the Blue Book database);

(e) Maintenance and updating of the online database of specimens of the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft

(f) Publication and/or online versions of booklets and other information materials in support of SC.3 activities.

19. Technical cooperation:

- (a) Preparatory work for an international conference on inland water transport;
 - (b) Support for technical cooperation and capacity building to assist countries and river commissions in establishing homogeneous and internationally acceptable standards of navigation safety throughout the European inland waterway network;
 - (c) Workshops and round tables on topical issues and new challenges in the sector
- (4).

B. Biennial Evaluation

20. On the basis of decisions taken at its sixty-third session in November 2019 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/210, paragraph 99), the activities of SC.3 are measured, as part of the biennial evaluation, against one expected accomplishment, two indicators of achievement and corresponding actual performance measures, following the practice approved by ITC as part of the performance planning for evaluation of the biennium 2018–2019 (ECE/TRANS/2016/29).

21. The Working Party may wish to review the 2022–2023 parameters (expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, actual performance measures) as provided below with a view to either maintaining them or establishing new ones for the biennium 2024–2025.

| <i>Biennial Assessment</i> | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <i>Review of performance measures for 2022–2023 and establishment of targets for 2024–2025</i> | | | |
| <i>Cluster</i> | <i>Expected Accomplishments</i> | <i>Indicators of Achievement</i> | <i>Actual Performance Measures</i> |
| Inland waterway transport | An improved and updated regulatory framework for inland water transport infrastructure and vessels in the ECE region, monitoring and updating of relevant legal instruments, as well as enhanced cooperation of member States in addressing them. | <p>(a) Promotion of the third fourth revised edition of the Blue Book, updating of the AGN Agreement and other relevant ECE instruments</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> <p>Baseline 2022–2023: Preparation and adoption of amendment 4 to the Blue Book and preparation of the fourth revision of the Blue Book</p> <p>Target 2024–2025: Preparation and adoption of amendment 1 to the fourth revision of the Blue Book</p> <p>(b) Preparation and adoption of the next revision of CEVNI taking account of information on its application in member States and by river commissions.</p> | <p>(a) Amendment 5 to the Blue Book was adopted in 2022.</p> <p>(b) Fourth revised edition of the Blue Book was adopted in October 2023.</p> <p>(c) The Blue Book online database was updated simultaneously with the release of the Blue Book publication.</p> |

*Biennial Assessment
Review of performance measures for 2022–2023 and establishment of targets for 2024–2025*

| <i>Cluster</i> | <i>Expected Accomplishments</i> | <i>Indicators of Achievement</i> | <i>Actual Performance Measures</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| | | <i>Performance measures:</i> | |
| | | Baseline 2020–2021: Preparation and adoption of CEVNI revision 6 | (a) Amendment 4 to CEVNI revision 5 was adopted by SC.3 in 2020. (b) CEVNI revision 6 was prepared and adopted by SC.3 in 2021. |
| | | Baseline 2022–2023: Preparation and adoption of amendments to CEVNI revision 6 | Amendment 1 to CEVNI revision 6 was adopted in 2023. |
| | | Target 2024–2025: Preparation and adoption of amendments to CEVNI revision 6 | |
| | | (c) Preparation of the third edition of the White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe (2020) | |
| | | <i>Performance measures:</i> | |
| | | Baseline 2018–2019: Starting the revision of the White Paper and preparation for its next edition | (a) Ministerial Conference “Connecting by Inland Navigation” was held on 18 and 19 April 2018 and the Ministerial declaration was adopted on 18 April. (b) ITC Resolution No. 265 was adopted in February 2018. (c) Recommendations for member States on monitoring the implementation of the Wrocław Declaration were approved by SC.3 in November 2019. (d) Draft of the revised White Paper was considered by SC.3 in November 2019. |
| | | Baseline 2020–2021: Implementation of the revised White Paper | (a) Actions proposed under policy recommendations Nos. 1–6, and 8 were regularly addressed by SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3 in 2020–2021 through the adoption of amendments to the Blue Book, resolutions Nos. 21, revision 2, 61, resolutions on RIS, discussions on automation in accordance with resolution No. 95, thematic workshops and round tables. (b) Following policy recommendation No. 7, SC.3 initiated revision of resolution No. 31 which will be continued in 2022–2023. |

*Biennial Assessment
Review of performance measures for 2022–2023 and establishment of targets for 2024–2025*

| <i>Cluster</i> | <i>Expected Accomplishments</i> | <i>Indicators of Achievement</i> | <i>Actual Performance Measures</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| | | Baseline 2022–2023: Implementation of the recommendations of the White Paper | <p>(a) In 2022–2023, actions proposed under policy recommendations Nos. 1–7 were regularly addressed by SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3 through the adoption of the fourth revision of the Blue Book, amendments to resolutions Nos. 21, 49, 61, 58, discussions on automation in accordance with resolution No. 95, thematic workshops and round tables.</p> <p>(b) ITC Resolution No. 269 “Facilitating the Development of Container Transport on Inland Waterways” was adopted in February 2022.</p> <p>(c) In 2022–2023, the E waterway census was developed by the secretariat of the Working Party on Transport Statistics in coordination with SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3.</p> <p>(d) In 2023, SC.3 made a report for ITC on progress in implementing the Wrocław ministerial declaration by countries.</p> |
| | | <p>Target 2024–2025: Implementation of the recommendations of the White Paper and ITC resolutions Nos. 265 and 269</p> <p>(d) Preparation and adoption of the next revision of resolution No. 61, Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels</p> <p><i>Performance measures:</i></p> | |
| | | Baseline 2018–2019: Finalization of the consolidated version of resolution No. 61 for the final adoption | Revision 2 was adopted by SC.3 in October 2018 and issued as a publication in 2019. |
| | | Baseline 2020–2021: Preparation and adoption of amendments to the annex to resolution No. 61, revision 2 | Amendments 1 and 2 to the annex to resolution No. 61, revision 2, were adopted by SC.3 in 2020 and 2021. |
| | | Baseline 2022–2023 Preparation and adoption of amendments 3 and 4 to the annex to resolution No. 61, revision 2 | Amendments 3 and 4 to the annex to resolution No. 61, revision 2, were adopted by SC.3 in 2022 and 2023. |

Biennial Assessment
Review of performance measures for 2022–2023 and establishment of targets for 2024–2025

| <i>Cluster</i> | <i>Expected Accomplishments</i> | <i>Indicators of Achievement</i> | <i>Actual Performance Measures</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | Target 2024–2025 Preparation and adoption of amendments 5 and 6 to the annex to resolution No. 61, revision 2 | |
|--|--|--|--|
