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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

Forty-first session

Geneva, 20–22 June 2012

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Recreational navigation

Recreational navigation

Note by the secretariat

Introduction and mandate

1. At its thirty-ninth session, Working Party SC.3/WP.3 decided to resume the work on a schematic map of European waterways used for recreational navigation and to develop guidelines on the implementation of Resolution No. 40 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/78, para. 40). In turn, at its fifty-fifth session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport requested SC.3/WP.3 to dedicate part of its forty-first session to this issue (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/191, para. 47).
2. At its fortieth session, Working Party SC.3/WP.3 reviewed a draft map of European waterways used for recreational navigation (AGNP). Delegates were invited to submit their comments and proposals on possible corrections of the map. In order to establish a document on the implementation of Resolution No. 40, member Governments were invited to transmit to the secretariat information on difficulties in implementing the said Resolution and their views with regard to possible upgrading of the status of the Resolution and ways to proceed with such upgrading (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/80, para. 54).
3. Information received from Governments follows below. The Working Party may wish: (a) to consider the problems linked to the implementation of Resolution No. 40 and decide whether amendments should be made to the Resolution in order to make it clearer not only for Governments but also for individual pleasure craft owners; (b) to have an exchange of views on possible upgrading of the status of the Resolution in the light of the comments and suggestions received from Governments; (c) to allow the secretariat to include amendments to annex IV of the Resolution (containing data on its application by

Governments) automatically on receipt of the relevant information from Governments; and (d) to supplement Resolution No. 52, "European Recreational Inland Navigation Network", with the schematic AGNP map once the corrections proposed by Governments have been incorporated.

Bulgaria

4. In Bulgarian legislation, recreational navigation and the issuing of certificates for operators of pleasure craft are regulated by Ordinance No. 6 of the Minister of Transport of the Republic of Bulgaria on Seafarers' Competence, issued in SG No. 101 of 4 December 2007. The Ordinance is available in Bulgarian and English at: www.marad.bg.

5. Bulgaria recognizes certificates issued by the competent authorities of other countries, provided it is verified that such certificates are valid for inland navigation. Bulgaria issues equivalent certificates for maritime navigation that meet the requirements of sea-going service.

6. The Bulgarian delegation is not opposed to upgrading the status of Resolution No. 40 to that of a binding instrument, and will support such a decision if adopted by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport.

7. Bulgaria has no comment regarding the map of the European recreational inland navigation network.

Russian Federation

8. Since the Russian Federation is not currently applying Resolution No. 40 and the question of its implementation is being examined with consideration of amendments to the Inland Water Transport Code, the Russian delegation is unable to provide information on the implementation of the Resolution.

9. Given the increased interest of Governments in Resolution No. 40, it would be appropriate to upgrade the status of the Resolution to that of a binding instrument, such as an international agreement. This would enable better regulation of the issuing and recognition of international certificates for operators of pleasure craft and define the liability of parties during their use.

10. At the present time, the Russian Federation is preparing draft regulations on the recreational navigation network. Once the text has been approved, the Russian Federation will submit information regarding the map of the European recreational inland navigation network to the ECE secretariat.
