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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
(Sixty-fourth session, 18-21 February 2002,
agenda item 16)

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

Note by the secretariat

At its forty-fifth session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) agreed on a Plan of Action for the implementation of decisions taken by the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport (Rotterdam, 5 and 6 September 2001) and asked its Chairman to prepare, with the assistance of the secretariat, a Draft Resolution on the Promotion of Inland Water Transport and submit it together with the Plan of Action for consideration and adoption by the Committee (TRANS/SC.3/155, para. 14).

The text of the Draft Resolution, annexed to which is the Plan of Action, is reproduced below.

PROMOTION OF INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

Draft Resolution No. ...

adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on ...

The Inland Transport Committee,

Recalling the Declaration adopted by the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport (Rotterdam, 5 and 6 September, document TRANS/SC.3/2001/10),

Recalling also the Vienna Declaration adopted by the 1997 Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna, 12-14 November 1997, document ECE/RCTE/CONF./2/FINAL),

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 in the inland transport sector, which in comparison with other modes has economic and ecological advantages and offers spare infrastructure and vessel capacity and is therefore capable of lowering social cost and negative impact on the environment by inland transport as a whole,

Referring to the European Union's White Paper on transport policy for 2010 that underlines the importance of inland waterway transport as a key component of intermodality which must provide a means of coping with the growing congestion of road and rail infrastructure and of tackling air pollution,

Noting with satisfaction that (i) the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance, providing for the development in Europe of a unique, modern and technically unified network of inland waterways and ports, entered into force on 26 July 1999 and that (ii) 7 States have deposited their instruments of ratification, approval and/or acceptance of the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) and that it may, therefore, also enter into force in the near future,

Noting also the elaboration and adoption in 2000 in cooperation with the two river commissions of two important legal instruments in the field of inland navigation, i.e. the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) and the Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI),

Noting equally the progress made within its relevant subsidiary bodies in harmonizing technical, safety and manning requirements in inland navigation,

Being aware at the same time of the existence of a number of important infrastructure-related, legal, technical, administrative and organizational obstacles encountered by inland navigation operators in international traffic,

1. **Endorses** the Plan of Action elaborated by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport as a follow-up to the Rotterdam Conference, which is annexed to this resolution,

2. **Requests** the Working Party on Inland Water Transport in close cooperation with the European Commission, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine and the Danube Commission to proceed with the implementation of the above Plan of Action and contribute to the work of the Monitoring Group on the preparation of the next Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport to be held in 2006 in Romania,

3. **Requests** the Executive Secretary to consider allocating within the existing resources additional staff that may be needed to cope with the additional workload resulting from the implementation of the Plan of Action.

4. **Asks** the Working Party on Inland Water Transport to monitor the implementation of this resolution and regularly inform the Inland Transport Committee of the progress made.

Annex**PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE
PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON INLAND WATER TRANSPORT**

(Rotterdam, 5 and 6 September 2001)

Rotterdam Declaration item No.	Action to be undertaken	Collaborating agencies	Time frame
Infrastructure 1	<p>To include into the Programme of Work a new element: "Monitoring the implementation of AGN Agreement and consideration of possible amendments to it"; and under this new element</p> <p>To establish (through the adoption of SC.3 resolution) an Inventory of Most Important Bottlenecks and Missing Links in the E Waterway Network;</p> <p>To prepare, with the help of volunteer Governments concerned, action plans (or agreements, or memoranda of understanding) on elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territory of more than one State Party to AGN; and</p> <p>To prepare, with the help of voluntary Governments concerned, proposals on the development of concrete river-sea routes in the context of AGN Agreement (such as: River Don – Azove Sea – Black Sea - Dnieper – Danube; or Guadalquivir - – coastal route E 60 - River Douro – River Gironde – River Loire – River Seine (E 80), etc.). These projects would have to set up conditions and requirements concerning both, sea-river routes themselves (their equipment with necessary aids to navigation, obligatory use of River Information Services, etc.) and vessels which can be used on those routes.</p> <p>Any amendments to AGN, emanating from the above activities, would have to be considered and approved by the Ad hoc Meeting on Implementation of AGN to be set up.</p>	EC, PIANC	Continuing
5	To inform Working Party WP.24 of the outcome of the Rotterdam Declaration and invite it, as a follow-up to the Conference, to take such measures as it may deem to be appropriate under this item of the Declaration.	WP.24	2001

8	To contribute to the work of the Steering Committee on the Pan-European Transport Corridor VII (Danube) once it has been set up as a matter of priority with a view to ensuring the implementation of AGN standards.	Steering Committee	Continuing
9	Subject to the agreement of the Governments concerned, to launch the revision of the 1993 Study on the Establishment of the Danube-Oder-Elbe Connection by setting up of a Group of Rapporteurs. To explore possibilities for undertaking a study on the Rhine-German Canals-Vistula-Dnieper Connection by contacting Governments concerned.		2002
10	Following the adoption within EU of the Computerized River Information Service (COMPRIS), to establish common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Service; and to include an appropriate element into the Programme of Work	EC, CCNR, DC	2005
Legislative harmonization and access to the market 12	To accelerate the work on updating the Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (annex to resolution No.17, revised) with a view to harmonizing them with the EU draft revised Directive 82/714/EEC, the Regulations on Survey of Rhine Vessels (RVBR) and national river basin dependant regulations; and To consider together with the Working Party SC.3/WP.3 possible conversion of the Group of Volunteers into an ad hoc group and its possible enlargement;	CCNR, DC	2005
13	To set up a small informal group of volunteer experts to prepare by the 46 th session of SC.3 a draft UNECE contribution setting up jointly with intergovernmental bodies concerned an Inventory of existing legislative obstacles that hamper the establishment of a harmonized and competitive Pan-European inland navigation market together with recommendations as to how to overcome those obstacles;	EC, CCNR, DC, ECMT	2002
15	To promote implementation of existing UNECE Conventions pertaining to inland navigation and undertake an assessment of the legal instruments concerned in order to consider updating those which have become obsolete.		Continuing

Safety and sustainability 16	To continue the work on projects relating to water and air pollution prevention and noise abatement, within the existing Programme of Work.	CCNR, DC	Continuing
17	To proceed with updating resolution No. 21 on Prevention of Water Pollution by Vessels; After the completion of the above-mentioned project to consider a possibility to elaborate on the basis of the updated text of the resolution a Pan-European legal instrument of a binding character taking also into account the text of the CCNR Convention on Collection, Discharge and Reception of Waste arising from Rhine and Inland Navigation.	CCNR, DC	2005
18	To continue consideration of measures aimed at the prevention of air pollution by inland navigation vessels taking into account the experience and norms agreed within EU, IMO, CCNR, ISO and other international organizations concerned with a view to elaborating Pan-European provisions on this issue.	EC, CCNR, DC	2004
Promotion 19	To publish a booklet on the current situation, perspectives and environmental and economic advantages of European inland navigation; To regularly issue press-releases concerning inland navigation matters; To update UNECE and SC.3 websites and provide it with links to relevant websites of intergovernmental organizations concerned with inland navigation.	ECMT, EC, CCNR, DC	2002-2003
21	To invite non-governmental organizations representing the inland navigation industry (such as UINF, Conference of Directors of Danubian Shipping Companies, Inland Navigation Europe, etc.) to SC.3 meetings and encourage cooperation between them.		Continuing
22	To take an active part in the work of the Monitoring Group on follow-up to the Pan-European Conference on Inland Waterway Transport.	ECMT, EC, CCNR, DC	Continuing
23	To contribute to the preparation of the 2006 Conference in Romania.	ECMT, EC, CCNR, DC	2006