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Working Party on Inland Water Transport

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

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Item 8 (c) of the provisional agenda

Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for pan-European River Information Services (RIS): International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (VTT) (Resolution No. 63)

Communication on the revision of the VTT Standard

Transmitted by Germany

1. It is our common aim to achieve uniform technical requirements and recommendations for inland navigation in Europe. The VTT Expert Group has elaborated a proposal concerning the updating of the VTT Standard and transmitted it to the CCNR and to the UN ECE. In the meantime, the CCNR has revised the Standard and published it in April 2013. The proposed amendments were, in principle, taken into account, but not the amendments concerning:

- Section 2.4.2.1 “Reference point for reported position and overall dimensions of ship” and
- Section 3 „AIS Class B mobile station on inland waterways”.

2. In the interest of uniform requirements and recommendations, Germany, therefore, proposes to also delete these sections from the current amendment of the UN ECE Resolution No. 63. The technical requirements for Class B devices should be incorporated in the same way in the relevant regulations of the EU, CCNR and UN ECE at some later date.

3. Concerning the Russian proposal for amendment: In Chapter 2.3.4 “Technology platform” the technical requirements for Inland AIS devices are described. Devices of Class B CS are not suitable as a technical platform for Inland AIS devices. Chapter 3 sets forth the technical requirements for AIS Class B devices. Since Germany proposes to delete Section 3, a supplement to this section is no longer necessary.

4. Within the framework of regional or national regulations the obligation to install and use Class B devices may be laid down for certain craft. Thus, the CCNR will presumably adopt provisions for the use of AIS Class B equipment in the Police Regulations for the Navigation of the Rhine.