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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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Geneva, 24–26 June 2015

Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda

Convention on the Registration of Inland Navigation Vessels

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat recalls that the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) included into its work plan for 2014 – 2018 the promotion of implementation of existing UNECE Conventions pertaining to inland navigation and assessment of the legal instruments concerned in order to consider updating those, which have become obsolete (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/195/Add.2, chapter B, section 1 g)).

SC.3 annually takes note of a table prepared by the secretariat on the current status of legal instruments on inland navigation questions, adopted in the UNECE region, including the information on acceptance, ratification, approval of these Conventions and accession to them since the pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport (Bucharest, 13–14 September 2006) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2014/11). The document proposes to set out possible ways to proceed with those which have not yet entered into force or have a limited number of Contracting States.

In 2013, the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3), at its forty-third session, considered the overview of the provisions, status and application of the Convention on the Measurement of Inland Navigation Vessels prepared by the secretariat as reproduced in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2013/13. It recognized the importance of this Convention for international inland water transport and invited Governments which were not yet Contracting Parties to consider acceding to it.

The secretariat proposes to prepare an overview of the Convention on the Registration of Inland Navigation Vessels, other Convention important for international inland water transport but not yet ratified by all Contracting Parties, for the fifty-ninth session of SC.3. This Convention was signed by 7 Contracting Parties: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. It was ratified by

Austria, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The Convention entered into force on 24 June 1982. Subsequently Belarus, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia became Contracting Parties. At the present time there are 9 Contracting Parties: Austria, Belarus, Croatia, France, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Serbia and Switzerland¹.

In order to prepare the exchange of opinions and discuss possible ways of promoting the implementation of this Convention, the Working Party may wish to ask the secretariat to prepare a summary on the application of this Convention.

The secretariat proposes the following questionnaire to be circulated for the fifty-ninth session of SC.3:

- What are the conditions for inland vessels registration in your country?
- What types of vessels need to be registered?
- What international and national documents are the basis for the registration of inland navigation vessels and who is responsible for the registration?
- Who performs the registration of vessels?
- Is it possible, according to the national legislation, to register foreign vessels in your national register, are there any restrictions or conditions?
- Is the European unique vessel identification number the only registration number issued for inland navigation vessels or are they assigned another registration number?

¹ The most recent information concerning the status of international conventions and agreements affecting inland navigation is published in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2014/11.