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### Economic Commission for Europe

#### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Inland Water Transport

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Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

#### **Harmonization of the pan-European legal framework for inland navigation: The International Convention on the Registration of Inland Navigation Vessels**

### **Possible modification of the International Convention on Registration of Inland Navigation Vessels**

#### **Transmitted by the Government of Belgium**

The actualization of this international convention is considered as important because at this moment, Belgium is revising its maritime and inland navigation law and is considering the obligatory registration of certain vessels for inland navigation. A revision of article 3 of the convention has to maintain the requirement of a genuine link between the vessel and the state of registration. But keeping the nationality as a criterion seems outdated and we even question if the actual place of exploitation of the ship is sufficient to establish this genuine link.

In our opinion a coordinated approach is needed, taking into account the different international agreements, conventions and existing European legislation with respect to registry obligations. For example: In Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2919/85 of 17 October 1985 laying down the conditions for access to the arrangements under the Revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine relating to vessels belonging to the Rhine Navigation, the owner of the vessel and place of exploitation are central features. Identification of the individual ship is also an important element for registry obligations, as for example EU Directive 2006/87 laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels, foresees in a Unique European Vessel Identification Number and the creation of the European Hull Database.

If an adaptation of the convention could contribute to a more harmonized approach and interlink between the different obligations in the different regulations, a more widen application by more member states would be a tangible result.

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