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**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON  
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT ON ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION**  
(22-24 October 2002)

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**REPORT****ATTENDANCE**

1. The Working Party on Inland Water Transport held its forty-sixth session from 22 to 24 October 2002. Representatives from the following countries took part in its work: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic; France, Germany; Netherlands; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Switzerland; Turkey, United Kingdom and Yugoslavia. The European Commission (EC) was also represented. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Danube Commission (DC), European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT). The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Touring Alliance (AIT) and European Boating Association (EBA). The following non-governmental organizations and private entities were present on invitation by the secretariat: Inland Navigation Europe (INE), Conference of Directors of the

Danubian Shipping Companies (CDDSC), European River-Sea Transport Union (ERSTU), European Inland Waterways (VNE) and EUROMAPPING.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. The Working Party **adopted** the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/SC.3/157). With regard to agenda item 12 “Adoption of the report”, the Working Party agreed that, as at its previous session, only decisions should appear in the draft to be prepared by the secretariat and read at the end of the session. A final concise report which would include succinct introductory statements, comments and positions of delegations on particular issues should be prepared by the Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat and circulated after the session.

### **CHAIRMANSHIP**

3. Mr. C. Hofhuizen (the Netherlands) chaired the session.

### **ACTIVITIES OF ECE BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE WORKING PARTY**

Documentation : ECE/TRANS/139; TRANS/2002/15; TRANS/WP.24/95; TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/13.

4. The Working Party **took note** of the activities of UNECE, the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and the Working Party on Combined Transport (WP.24) as they relate to its work. In response to the request of the Inland Transport Committee concerning the issue of transport and security (ECE/TRANS/139, para. 19), the Working Party agreed as follows:

- The Working Party SC.3/WP.3 **was asked** to study if there was a need for amendment of the AGN Agreement, the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI), the Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (annex to resolution No. 17, revised) and/or any other UNECE instruments concerning inland navigation with provisions aimed at enhancing security on board vessels when under way and in ports, and make its recommendations in this regard available to SC.3 for further considerations;
- The secretariat **was requested** to prepare a synthesis of the initiatives in this field undertaken within relevant international organizations of relevance to inland navigation; and
- Governments and international organizations **were invited** to transmit to the secretariat **by 1 June 2003** their contributions on this issue, in particular, on work being done in their respective countries and organizations of relevance to inland navigation.

The Working Party **agreed** to come back to the issue of transport and security at its forty-seventh session and report to the Committee accordingly.

### **FOLLOW-UP TO THE 1997 REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2002/3; ECE/AC.21/2002/8; Informal Document No. 2 (AFS Convention).

5. The Working Party **took note** of the Mid-Term Review of the Programme of Joint Action adopted by the 1997 Regional Conference (ECE/AC.21/2002/3) and of the establishment at the Second High-Level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health (Geneva, 5 July 2002) of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (PEP) and setting up jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO/Euro) of a Steering Committee which is to promote, monitor, coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Programme. The secretariat **was requested** to keep the Steering Committee informed of the activities under way within SC.3 of relevance to the protection of the environment and health and seek the instructions of the Inland Transport Committee as to whether this item should continue to be included in the agenda in the future.

6. The Working Party **took note** of the text of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems (AFS) adopted within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and **requested** the Working Party SC.3/WP.3 to study the text and consider a possible amendment of CEVNI with regard to prohibition of use of harmful anti-fouling coatings on inland navigation vessels along the provisions of the AFS Convention.

#### **STUDY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND TRENDS IN INLAND WATER TRANSPORT IN MEMBER COUNTRIES**

Documentation : Informal Document No. 6 (presentation of CDDSC).

7. The representative of the European Commission informed the Working Party of the latest developments within the European Union of relevance to inland navigation. He said, in particular, that a tender has been launched by the Commission for preparation of a "Study on the Situation and Future Prospects concerning Inland Waterways in the Enlarged European Union". The study will describe, compare and analyse the inland-waterway markets, fleet capacity, business structure and the economic and social conditions of the inland waterways sector in the European Union and applicant countries. It will explore the medium and long term prospects and development potential for inland waterways within the Community transport system, especially in view of the foreseeable impact of EU enlargement. The result should, in operational terms, lead to concrete recommendations for statutory and political measures for inland waterways at Community level (within the context of priorities defined in the White Paper on transport), and also lead to suggestions for developing attendant measures concerning enlarging and integrating the inland waterways sector at Community level. The final report is expected to be made public early in 2004.

8. The Working Party was informed by a representative of ECMT that a yearly ECMT statistical leaflet on transport trends covering the period 1970-2001 was to be published shortly. The leaflet would contain data on the performance of inland transport modes, including inland waterways, in ECMT member Governments during the above period.

9. The representative of the Danube Commission informed the Working Party of the state of the Danube clearance project at Novi Sad. He said that the clearance of the channel from the debris of bridges should be completed by the end of October 2002. The riverbed rehabilitation works should take place between November 2002 and January 2003. A provisional fairway had been in operation since November 2001. Furthermore, as a result of various agreements with Yugoslav authorities, the navigation regime had been

significantly improved recently, in particular, through more frequent regular openings of the pontoon bridge. Complete restoration of the navigation via the sector of the Danube at Novi Sad, he said, was expected after the reconstruction of the Sloboda Bridge financed by the European Union.

10. It was recalled that, at its forty-fifth session, the Working Party, desiring to enhance its cooperation with the business community and subregional groupings, invited non-Governmental organizations interested in inland navigation to its next and consecutive sessions in order to allow them to represent their interests at this forum (TRANS/SC.3/153, para. 4). The representatives of the INE, ERSTU and CDDSC attended the session on invitation by the secretariat and were able to present their organizations and inform the Working Party of their membership, mandate and main activities aimed at promoting water transport.

11. The Working Party **took note** of the reports and presentations by non-Governmental international organizations of interest to inland navigation, invited by the secretariat to the session at the request of SC.3 and commended their activities aimed at the promotion of inland and sea-river navigation. The secretariat was requested to continue to invite to consecutive SC.3 sessions NGOs of relevance to its work which do not yet have a consultative status at ECOSOC.

12. Governments and River Commissions **were invited** to transmit to the secretariat **by 1 June 2003** information on the latest developments regarding: (i) inland navigation infrastructure; (ii) movement of goods; and (iii) policy issues with a view to enabling the secretariat to prepare a succinct report on this item by its forty-seventh session.

#### **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON MEASURES AIMED AT PROMOTING TRANSPORT BY INLAND WATERWAYS**

Documentation : ECE/TRANS/139, annex 2; TRANS/SC.3/2001/10; TRANS/SC.3/2002/3; TRANS/SC.3/2002/7 and Add.1 ; Informal Document No. 1 (transmitted by the Group of Volunteers); Informal Document No. 4 (transmitted by the Russian Federation).

13. The Working Party **took note** of resolution No. 250 of the Inland Transport Committee, on the Promotion of Inland Water Transport (ECE/TRANS/139, annex 2) containing in its annex the 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, following the items mentioned in the Plan of Action, took the following decisions:

(i) **Took note** of the text of the draft “Inventory of existing legislative obstacles that hamper the establishment of a harmonized and competitive Pan-European inland navigation market” (Informal document No.1) prepared by the Group of Volunteers set up at its forty-fifth session and **invited** Governments, EC, River Commissions and ECMT to transmit to the secretariat **by mid-January 2003**, their written remarks and proposals on the draft together with proposals on possible recommendations as to how to overcome the legislative obstacles mentioned in the draft Inventory. It would be appreciated if information from Governments on different types of obstacles mentioned in the draft Inventory could enable the Group of Volunteers to complete the description of the existing situation within the EU, Rhine navigation and on the Danube, and supplement it with relevant information concerning other countries and areas. After receiving the remarks from Governments and intergovernmental organizations concerned, a new version of the

Inventory will be prepared by the Group of Volunteers. To this end, the Group of Volunteers expected to meet once again in the spring of 2003 with a view to finalizing the draft Inventory and presenting it for adoption within UNECE and within all other intergovernmental organizations meant by the Rotterdam Declaration (TRANS/SC.3/2001/10, item 13);

(ii) **Considered** the way for preparation of action plans (agreements, memoranda of understanding or other similar unilateral, bilateral or multilateral arrangements) envisaging elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territories of countries concerned as proposed by the secretariat in TRANS/SC.3/2002/6 and **opted** for alternative B, i.e. the adoption of a resolution of the Inland Transport Committee as indicated in the above document. The secretariat **was requested** to present the draft resolution for adoption by the Committee at its forthcoming sixty-fifth session.

(iii) **Considered** the way for the preparation, with the help of voluntary Governments concerned, of proposals on the development of concrete river-sea routes in the context of the AGN Agreement taking into account the contributions received from Governments and non-Governmental organizations and issued as TRANS/SC.3/2002/7 and Add.1 and Informal document No. 4 and **welcomed** the offer made by the delegation of the Russian Federation to formulate, in cooperation with the delegation of Ukraine, a proposal on the development of a river-sea route River Don - Azove Sea - Black Sea - Dnieper - Danube ;

(iv) **Agreed** with the proposal of the Russian Federation supported by Ukraine and by the European River-Sea Transport Union (ERSTU) that the Working Party SC.3/WP.3 and its Group of Volunteers on amendment of resolution No. 17, revised, should consider a possibility and modality for the elaboration of specific unified technical requirements for sea-river vessels;

(v) **Requested** the secretariat to approach Governments concerned with a view to exploring possibilities for launching two studies on the establishment of inter-basin waterway connections mentioned in the Plan of Action, i.e. : Danube-Oder-Elbe and Rhine-German Canals-Vistula-Dnieper;

(vi) **Took note** of the conclusions of the ECMT Seminar: "The Inland Waterways of Tomorrow on the European Continent" (Paris, 30 January 2002) appearing in TRANS/SC.3/2002/3 and **found them** particularly appropriate for its work under this item.

14. The Working Party was informed and took note of the establishment of Inland Navigation Europe (INE) and the active promotion of inland navigation towards users and policy makers carried out by this organization.

## **INLAND WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE**

(a) European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)

Documentation : ECE/TRANS/120 and Corr.1.

15. The Working Party was informed that the Russian Federation had become a thirteenth Contracting Party to the AGN Agreement together with Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and Switzerland. Governments, in particular, Austria, Finland, France, Greece and Germany, who signed the Agreement in 1997, **were invited**

to clarify the situation with regard to the prospects for them to become Contracting Parties to the AGN.

(b) European recreational navigation network

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/2000/6; map of Inland Waterway for Recreational Navigation.

16. The Working Party **took note** of the map of European inland waterways which can be used for recreational navigation prepared on request by the International Touring Alliance (AIT) and the European Inland Waterways (VNE) as a demonstration of the possible Pan-European recreational navigation network and **agreed** that the network presented on the AIT/VNE map may serve as a basis for drafting an appropriate UNECE document on this question subject to views of Governments. Governments who have not yet done so were invited to inform the secretariat **by 1 June 2003** of any modifications to be made to the map regarding inland waterways crossing their territory. The AIT, VNE and the European Boating Association (EBA) **were requested** to prepare, with the help of the secretariat, a draft resolution on the establishment of the European recreational navigation network to be submitted for consideration by the Working Party SC.3 using, in particular, the ideas set out in TRANS/SC.3/2000/6.

17. The representative of Yugoslavia informed the Working Party that his Government welcomed the intention of the Working Party to establish the network of recreational navigation in Europe and submitted to the secretariat detailed remarks concerning modifications to be made to the AIT/VNE map with regard to the waterways situated on the territory of Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia suggests, in particular, to supplement the map with the canal network of the hydraulic system "Danube-Tisza-Danube".

(c) Inventory of main standards and parameters of the E waterway network ("blue book")

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/144 and Add. 1-2; TRANS/SC.3/2002/1 and Add.1.

18. The Working Party **considered** the text of the draft resolution on the Inventory of the most important bottlenecks and missing links in the E waterway network prepared by the secretariat (TRANS/SC.3/2002/1 and Add.1) and **adopted it** as resolution No. 49 subject to the following:

(i) the list of strategic bottlenecks in the network of Russian inland waterways in TRANS/SC.3/2002/1/Add.1 should be correctly spelled out in Russian;

(ii) the proposed modifications to the Inventory contained in TRANS/SC.3/2002/1/Add.1 should be agreed upon with the Governments of Belgium, France and the Netherlands, as far as they concerned inland waterways of these three countries;

(iii) the Inventory should be supplemented with the following information concerning Yugoslavia:

**“YUGOSLAVIA**

**Strategic bottlenecks:**

- **Danube (E 80) from 863 to 845.5 km - low fairway depth at dry seasons (below 2.50 m - value recommended by the Danube Commission) with fairway depth limited to 2.20-2.30 m for 7-15 days a year.”**

19. The secretariat **was requested** to finalize and publish the text of the resolution.

20. The representative of ECMT welcomed the adoption of the Inventory and drew the attention of the Working Party to the conclusions of the Seminar “The inland waterways of tomorrow on the European continent” organized by ECMT in Paris on 30 January 2002 (TRANS/SC.3/2002/3) which called inter alia for “promoting the drawing up of a unique list of bottlenecks and missing links” by international organizations concerned.

21. The idea of having a unique list of bottlenecks and missing links in the E waterway network was supported by other delegates. It was felt that at some stage the data concerning bottlenecks and missing links might become a part of the AGN Agreement through an appropriate amendment procedure.

22. The representative of Yugoslavia informed the Working Party of the existence on the River Danube of a bottleneck of a navigational character at the Pancevo Bridge (1166.5 km) where a two-way navigation currently takes place under one and the same bridge span. To enhance the safety of navigation, the Government of Yugoslavia intends to eliminate this bottleneck through the introduction in the nearest future in coordination with the Danube Commission of a one-way navigation under two different bridge spans accompanied with an appropriate fairway and bridge marking.

23. The representative of the Danube Commission drew the attention of the Working Party to the importance of the fact that by the time of implementation of waterway development projects mentioned in the Inventory most of the Danube riparian countries would have joined the European Union and that, therefore, the financing of the Danube-related projects would have to be tackled in the same way be it to the west or to the east from Austria.

24. The Working Party **took note** of document TRANS/SC.3/144/Add.2 containing modifications and rectifications to be made to the “blue book” as suggested by Governments concerned and **invited** Governments to continue to keep it informed of any possible modifications and/or corrections concerning relevant data in the “blue book”. It **was agreed** that the revision of the “blue book” should be envisaged in 2005 when the revision of similar publications concerning road transport (road transport census) and combined transport (“yellow book”) was expected.

(d) Updating the map of European inland waterways

25. The Working Party **reiterated** its invitation to Governments and River Commissions to continue to transmit to the secretariat any modifications or corrections to be made to the three maps of European inland waterways, last published in 1999.

26. The Working Party **was informed** of the progress made by the secretariat in exploring the possibilities for preparing an electronic map reflecting the AGN network together with the data contained in the “blue book” and possibly together with relevant networks belonging to other modes of transport and

**found** this idea very attractive. The secretariat **was requested** to continue to study possibilities for providing the map in an interactive electronic format.

## **WORK OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF TECHNICAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN INLAND NAVIGATION**

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/47 and TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/48.

- (a) Amendment of the Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (annex to resolution No. 17, revised)

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/2000/1 and Corrs. 1-2 and Adds. 1-2; TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/AC.2/2002/1 and Add.1.

27. The Working Party **took note** of the text of amended chapters 11bis “Movable wheelhouses” and 13 “Life-saving appliances” of the annex, as reproduced in TRANS/SC.3/2000/1/Add.2 and **provisionally approved** them. The Working Party SC.3/WP.3 **was requested** to continue to submit to SC.3 consolidated texts of other amended chapters of the annex for consideration and approval until it would become possible to adopt a new resolution with the revised Recommendations annexed to it. In so doing, the Working Party and its Group of Volunteers were requested, as far as requirements for navigational zone 3 are concerned, to base their work as much as possible on relevant provisions of the draft revised Directive 82/714/EEC of the European Community.

28. The Working Party **endorsed** the decisions of the Working Party SC.3/WP.3 with regard to further amendment of the annex (TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/47, paras. 5-14) and, in particular, **took note** of the texts of draft amended chapters 7 “Hoisting gear, rigging and equipment” and 14 “Pushers, pushed barges and pushed and towed convoys” of the annex to resolution No. 17, revised, as prepared by the group of volunteers appearing in TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/AC.2/2002/1 and Add.1 and **reminded** Governments and River Commissions to transmit to the secretariat **by 15 November 2002** their comments and proposals on the above-mentioned draft amended chapters for consideration by the Working Party SC.3/WP.3 at its twenty-fifth session (19-21 March 2003).

29. The representative of the Danube Commission informed the Working Party that the forthcoming Meeting of Experts of the Danube Commission on Technical Questions (Budapest, 2-6 December 2002) was going to study a need for possible amendment of the “Recommendations of the Danube Commission on Technical Regulations for Inland Navigation Vessels” taking into account the text of the amended chapters of the annex to resolution No. 17, revised, as provisionally approved by SC.3.

- (b) Updating the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) and the Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways (SIGNI)

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.2.

30. With satisfaction, the Working Party **took note** of the publication by the secretariat of a revised CEVNI in a loose-leaf format, appearing in TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.2 which is also available at the SC.3 website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/sc3/sc3fdoc.html> in all three working languages.

31. The Working Party **also took note** of and approved the work of SC.3/WP.3 on further amendment of CEVNI and SIGNI as reflected in TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/48, paras. 5-25 and 27-28.

(c) Requirements for prevention of pollution from vessels

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/131; TRANS/SC.3/150 and Adds. 1-2; TRANS/SC.3/2002/2; TRANS/SC.3/2002/8.

32. The Working Party **considered** the text of the draft resolution on technical requirements for the prevention of pollution from vessels (TRANS/SC.3/2002/2) finalized on its request by the Working Party SC.3/WP.3 and **adopted** it as resolution No. 50.

33. It also **took note** of the text of the revised resolution No. 21 on prevention of water pollution (TRANS/SC.3/2002/2) prepared by the delegate of Hungary with due regard to the text of the CCNR Convention on Collection, Retention and Disposal of Waste Generated during Navigation on the Rhine and Other Inland Waterways, of 1996. Given the late appearance of the text, the Working Party **invited** Governments and River Commissions to study it and transmit to the secretariat by 1 June 2003 their comments and proposals on the draft revised resolution so that it could start consideration of the text at its forty-seventh session.

34. The Working Party **took note** of a new set of amendments to the publication concerning the availability on European inland waterways of reception facilities for transfer of waste generated on board ships circulated as TRANS/SC.3/150/Add.2 and **asked** Governments and River Commissions to continue to keep the secretariat informed of any information to be added to, or updated in TRANS/SC.3/150 and Adds.1-2.

(d) Chart display and information system for inland navigation (Inland ECDIS)

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/156; Informal Document No. 3 (Minutes of the Inland ECDIS Workshop).

35. The Working Party **took note** of the publication by the secretariat of resolution No. 48 concerning the Recommendation on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS) adopted at its forty-fifth session and issued as TRANS/SC.3/156 which is equally available in all three languages at the SC.3 website together with all the appendixes and annexes thereto.

(e) Standardization of ships and inland waterways for river/sea navigation

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/1999/21.

36. The Working Party SC.3 **took note** of the findings of the Working Party SC.3/WP.3 with regard to possible extension of the classification of inland waterways to sea-river navigation as suggested in the study of the Permanent International Association of Navigational Congresses (PIANC, document TRANS/SC.3/1999/21) and **agreed** to cease further consideration of this matter and delete it from its agenda.

**HARMONIZATION OF REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT AND FACILITATION OF ITS OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE STUDY OF LEGAL PROVISIONS**

(a) Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI)

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/2001/3; TRANS/SC.3/2002/5; TRANS/SC.3/2001/4; ECE/TRANS/CMNI/CONF/6; ECE/TRANS/CMNI/CONF/11.

37. The Working Party **was informed** that, in accordance with official information of the depository, the CMNI Convention had been signed altogether by 16 member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine. One State became a Contracting Party to the Convention: Hungary. The secretariat **was requested** to speed up the preparation of a publication of the CMNI Convention together with the texts of Final Acts in all five official languages of the Convention, i.e. Dutch, English, French, German, and Russian.

38. The Working Party **requested** the secretariat to prepare a draft resolution calling for a facultative application by Governments who may wish to do so, of the provisions of the two Protocols formerly annexed to the draft CMNI Convention just as they are reflected in TRANS/SC.3/2001/3 subject to possible corrections of an editorial nature to be made by the secretariat in accordance with the proposals appearing in the documentation received so far from member Governments.

(b) Consideration of the possibility of introducing a common legal regime for the limitation of the liability of owners of inland navigation vessels on a Europe-wide basis

39. The Working Party **was informed** that the Strasbourg Convention on the Limitation of Liability of Owners of Inland Navigation Vessels (CLNI) continued to have four Contracting Parties: Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland, and that the procedure of ratification was under way in two other CCNR member states: France and Belgium. It **was agreed** to keep the item on the agenda and revert to it at its next session.

(c) Circulation of information concerning existing bilateral and multilateral agreements for international inland water transport

40. The Working Party **took note** of the up-to-date information on existing bilateral and multilateral (between EU and third countries) agreements for international inland water transport circulated by the secretariat as TRANS/SC.3/2000/7 and Add.1 and **invited** Governments to keep the secretariat informed of any further rectifications or additions to be made to the above documents.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVENTIONS AND APPLICATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY**

Documentation : TRANS/SC.3/2001/6; TRANS/SC.3/2002/5 and Add.1; TRANS/SC.3/2002/9; Informal Document No. 5 (Summary of Responses to CVN Convention questionnaire).

41. The Working Party **took note** of the summary of responses by Governments to the questionnaire concerning the CVN Convention (Informal Document No. 5), received so far and **invited** Governments, which had not yet done so, to transmit to the secretariat their responses to the questionnaire **by 1 June 2003**. The secretariat **was requested** to prepare a working document reflecting the summary of responses from Governments in order to enable the Working Party, at its forty-seventh session, to decide on possible action with regard to this legal instrument.

42. The Working Party **considered** the situation concerning the application by Governments of its resolutions on the basis of a consolidated document TRANS/SC.3/2002/5 and invited Governments to accept the resolutions if they have not yet done so and inform the secretariat accordingly. It **took note** of the communication received from the International Touring Alliance (AIT) concerning the present situation with regard to the application by Governments of resolution No. 40 on the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (TRANS/SC.3/2002/5/Add.1) and **agreed** to ask the Inland Transport Committee to help to promulgate this resolution among all UNECE member Governments, including those who do not participate in the work of SC.3 in the interest of international tourism by inland waterways.

## **WORKSHOPS ON INLAND NAVIGATION MATTERS**

Documentation : Informal Document No. 3 (Minutes of the Inland ECDIS Workshop).

43. The Working Party **was informed** of the outcome and main findings of the Workshop on Practical Application of Inland ECDIS which was held on the invitation of the delegation of the Russian Federation on board an inland navigation passenger vessel on her way from St. Petersburg to Moscow from 7 to 13 September 2002. The Working Party **endorsed** the Minutes of the Workshop as reflected in Informal Document No. 3 and **asked** the secretariat to issue the Minutes as a formal SC.3 document in all three working languages of UNECE.

44. The Working Party **shared the view** of the Workshop that the Inland ECDIS Standard used throughout Europe should be as unified as possible. To this end, the Working Party **encouraged** the participation of experts from all its member Governments in the work of relevant fora dealing with the development of Inland ECDIS and/or River Information Services (RIS) including, in particular, the forthcoming GIS Forum Seminar organized under the patronage of the Danube Commission (Budapest, 30 and 31 October 2002) and meetings of the EC Inland ECDIS Expert Group.

45. The Working Party **was informed** by the representative of Austria, Mr. Vorderwinkler, of the current state of the COMPRIS project (Common Operational Platform for River Information Services) established by the European Commission and **welcomed** the offer made by Mr. Vorderwinkler as a Chairman of the COMPRIS project Steering Committee that the Secretary of the Working Party, Mr. Novikov, should take

part in the work of the Steering Committee, believing that this would help to avoid possible discrepancies in building up Pan-European RIS Standards.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Tentative calendar of meetings

46. The Working Party **took note** that, subject to approval by the Inland Transport Committee, the forty-seventh session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport would be held from **7 to 9 October 2003** and the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation from **19 to 21 March 2003** and from **3 to 5 June 2003**, respectively.

## **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

47. In accordance with the decision of the Working Party, the report of the current session was established by the Chairman with the assistance of the secretariat for submission to the Inland Transport Committee. The decisions adopted by the Working Party during the session are contained in the following paragraphs of this report: 2-6; 11-13; 15-16; 18-19; 24-28; 30-47.

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