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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Inland Water Transport
(Forty-sixth session, 22-24 October 2002,
agenda item 5)

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

Note by the secretariat

Note: The Inland Transport Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, adopted resolution No. 250 containing in its annex the text of 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) as reflected in ECE/TRANS/139, annex 2. The Plan envisages, in particular, *“To consider the way for preparation, with the help of volunteer Governments concerned, 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”*.

Reproduced below is a suggestion of the secretariat regarding possible action of the Working Party on the above item together with references to a number of governmental arrangements in this regard.

1. In dealing with the item of the Plan of Action concerning elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways, the Working Party may wish to consider the following two alternatives.

Alternative A

2. The text of the AGN Agreement (ECE/TRANS/120 and Corr.1) could be amended by introducing a new article 3 *bis* reading:

“Article 3 bis

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

1. The Contracting Parties to the present Agreement shall inform the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe of any action plans (agreements, memoranda of understanding or any other similar unilateral, bilateral or multilateral arrangements) aimed at the implementation of this Agreement through the elimination of existing bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular inland waterways of international importance as described in annex I to this Agreement.

2. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe shall publish the action plans mentioned in paragraph 1 above in the form of attachments to this Agreement and circulate them among interested member Governments.”

Alternative B

3. The Working Party may wish to consider the preparation and submission for adoption by the Inland Transport Committee of the following resolution.

“IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON MAIN INLAND
WATERWAYS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (AGN)

Resolution No. ...

The Inland Transport Committee,

Recalling the provisions of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN), in particular its Article 1 and annex I concerning the development and construction of an E waterway network,

Recalling also the main objectives and actions formulated in the Declaration adopted by the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport held in Rotterdam on 5 and 6 September 2001 (TRANS/SC.3/2001/10) and, in particular, the action called for under its item 1 of the Declaration: “Infrastructure”,

Recalling further its resolution No. 250 containing in its annex the text of 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) as reflected in ECE/TRANS/139, annex,

Recognizing the existence of a number of important bottlenecks and missing links in the E waterway network established by the AGN Agreement, as set out in the Inventory of the Most Important Bottlenecks and Missing Links in the E Waterway Network (TRANS/SC.3/...),

Recognizing also the importance of the wide and early implementation of the AGN Agreement through the elimination of existing bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular inland waterways of international importance as described in annex I to the Agreement,

Recognizing further that due to the nature of inland waterways their development for the purpose of inland navigation can usually only be undertaken by riparian Governments in cooperation with each other,

Encourages Governments and river commissions to establish unilateral action plans and/or bilateral or multilateral agreements (such as memoranda of understanding, studies or any other similar bilateral or multilateral arrangements) envisaging measures aimed at elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territories of countries concerned; and

Invites Governments and river commissions to communicate to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe the text of such action plans and agreements or arrangements for circulation to all member States as addenda to this resolution”.

4. Reproduced below are references to some of the unilateral, bilateral and multilateral action plans and arrangements concerning elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways, made known to the secretariat.

ACTION PLANS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING MISSING LINKS

5. **Memorandum on Cooperation for Preparation of the Oder Waterway from Kofle to Ostrava** (E 30). Signed by the governmental representatives of the Czech Republic and Poland on 12 April 2000.^{1/}

6. **Strategy of the Transport Development of the Republic of Croatia**. This document approved by the Croatian Parliament provides, in particular, for the construction by the year 2020 of the Danube-Sava Canal from Vukovar to Samac (E 80-10) of 61.5 km.^{2/}

7. **Minutes of the second meeting of the Joint Working Party on the “Transit Waterway Daugava (Zapadnaja Dvina) – Dnieper”**, of 23 November 2001.^{3/}

^{1/} Text to be obtained from the Governments concerned.

^{2/} Text to be obtained from the Croatian Government.

^{3/} Text of the Minutes signed by the governmental representatives of Belarus, Latvia and Ukraine has been received from the Latvian Environment and Power Fund “Lavera”. For the time being this potential waterway is not mentioned in the AGN Agreement.

ACTION PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING BOTTLENECKS

8. **Draft International Framework Agreement on the Sava Basin.**^{4/} The draft Agreement provides, in particular, for freedom of international navigation on the Sava River (E 80-12) and on its navigable tributaries as well as for the maintenance of waterways concerned in good navigable conditions.
9. **Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of the Pan-European Transport Corridor VII (the Danube)** signed by representatives of all Danube riparian States, Czech Republic and the European Commission on 6 September 2001 on the occasion of the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport (Rotterdam, 5 and 6 September 2002). Text of the MoU has been circulated as TRANS/SC.3/2001/8/Add.1. The MoU provides, in particular, for the development of navigational conditions on the conventional Danube (E 80) from Kelheim to Sulina and adjacent inland waterways of international importance, i.e.: Black Sea-Danube Canal (E 80-14), Danube-Kilia Arm (E 80-09), Danube-St. George Arm (E 80-16), Poarta Alba-Navodari Canal (E 80-14-01), Danube-Sava Canal (E 80-10), Danube-Tisza Canal^{5/} in accordance with technical standards established, in particular, by the AGN Agreement.
10. **Recommendations on Establishment of Parameters of the Navigable Channel, Hydrolic and Other Works on the Danube**, of 1988.^{6/} The Recommendations agreed by all States members of the Danube Commission provide for parameters of the navigable channel of the conventional Danube from Kelheim to Sulina which are completely in line with or even higher than the standards laid down in the AGN Agreement.
11. **Decisions taken by the Moselle Commission at its ordinary session on 24 November 1999.** The Decisions taken by all member Governments of the Moselle Commission (France, Germany and Luxembourg) provide for construction of second lock chambers on conventional Moselle (E 80) as a measure aimed at enhancing the profitability of Moselle navigation.^{7/}
12. **Strategy of the Transport Development of the Republic of Croatia.** This document approved by the Croatian Parliament provides, in particular, for the upgrading of the Sava River (E 80-12) to class IV (by 2005) and to class Vb (by 2010) and of the Drava River from its mouth to Osijek (E 80-08) to class IV.^{8/}

^{4/} The text of the Agreement is currently negotiated by governmental experts of Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia within the so-called Sava Working Group on the basis of the Letter of Intent signed by the representatives of the four Parties in Sarajevo on 29 November 2001. The information has been made available to the secretariat by the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

^{5/} This waterway is not mentioned in the AGN Agreement.

^{6/} Text to be obtained from the secretariat of the Danube Commission.

^{7/} Text received from the Moselle Commission.

^{8/} Text to be obtained from the Croatian Government.