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Item 7 (c) of the provisional agenda

Promotion of River Information Services (RIS) as well as other information and communication technologies (ICT) in inland navigation: UNECE recommendations on Maritime Mobile Service Identifiers (MMSI)

Proposal on UNECE recommendations on Maritime Mobile Service Identifiers (MMSI)

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3), at its forty-first session, considered the proposal by the Russian Federation to elaborate special recommendations on Maritime Mobile Service Identifiers (MMSI) and agreed to transmit it, with some minor modifications, to SC.3 for further consideration and action as appropriate (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/82, paras. 37–39).

2. The Working Party may wish to consider the proposal and decide as appropriate. It may wish, in particular, to consider possibly amending chapters 2–7.3.1 and 2–7.3.2 of the Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61, revised) as suggested in the document below and to consider possibly incorporating the proposals set out in para. 5 (a) to (d) below into Resolution No. 63, “International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (VTT)”.

II. Proposal by the Russian Federation on UNECE recommendations on MMSI for inland navigation vessels

3. The need to regulate the assignment of MMSI to inland navigation vessels has arisen from the general introduction, at the European level, of vessel tracking and tracing systems

using Automatic Identification System (AIS) technology. MMSI is mandatory for shipborne and shore-based AIS equipment. In accordance with Section VI, Article 19 of the Radio Regulations (Volume 1, 2008), the ship stations of maritime vessels are assigned MMSI on construction. Inland navigation vessels do not, as a rule, have MMSI.

4. The need to regulate the assignment of MMSI to inland navigation vessels is already reflected in the following European standards on River Information Services (RIS) and radio communication on inland waterways:

(a) The International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (VTT) (SC.3 Resolution No. 63, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/176);

(b) Commission Regulation (EC) No. 415/2007 of 13 March 2007 concerning the Technical Specifications for Vessel Tracking and Tracing Systems;

(c) The Regional Arrangement concerning the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways (Bucharest, 18 April 2012).

5. Proposal on regulating the assignment of MMSI:

(a) Recognize the necessity and recommend that competent Administrations extend the provisions of Section VI, Article 19 of the Radio Regulations (Volume 1, 2008) concerning the Maritime Mobile Service Identifier to inland navigation vessels;

(b) The MMSI number should be assigned by the competent Administration on installation of a mobile AIS station (transponder) on an inland navigation vessel in line with the procedure laid out in Section VI, Article 19 of the Radio Regulations (2008 version) and associated national standards;

(c) Once the AIS device has been installed on board an inland navigation vessel, the MMSI should be added to the vessel's papers¹ giving details of its radio and navigation equipment;

(d) Depending on the type of vessel, the MMSI may be assigned to the vessel or to its radio installation (vessel's AIS station);

(e) Make the following amendments to Chapter 2 of Resolution No. 61, revision 1, Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels:

(i) Add to paragraph 2-7.3.1 the following subparagraph 15:

“15. MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identifier) number”

(ii) In paragraph 2-7.3.2, delete subparagraph 8 and renumber subparagraphs 9 and 10.

¹ Under recommendation 2 of the Regional Arrangement concerning the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways (Bucharest, 18 April 2012), inland navigation vessels must have a Ship Station Licence, in line with Recommendation No. 7 of the Radio Regulations, which has a field for inclusion of the MMSI number.