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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on Inland Water Transport

##### Sixtieth session

Geneva, 2–4 November 2016

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

##### **Follow-up to the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe:**

**A new strategy and the Terms of Reference of SC.3**

## **Review of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport**

### Note by the secretariat

#### **I. Mandate**

1. This document is submitted in line with Cluster 5: Inland Waterway Transport, paragraph 5.1 of the programme of work 2016–2017 (ECE/TRANS/2016/28/Add.1) adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-eighth session on 26 February 2016.

2. In accordance with the UNECE Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE as approved by the UNECE Executive Committee at its fourth meeting on 14 July 2006 (ECE/EX/1), the mandate of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (the Working Party, or SC.3) shall be reviewed and extended every 5 years. The present Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Working Party were adopted at its fifty-fifth session on 14 October 2011 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/191, para. 54), and approved by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) on 1 March 2012 (ECE/TRANS/224, para. 91). The Working Party may therefore, wish to adopt the revised draft ToR for transmission to the seventy-ninth session of ITC in February 2017.

#### **II. Comments received for the Terms of Reference**

3. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) at its forty-ninth session began revising the ToR of SC.3 on the basis of a draft new strategy (see ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2016/10 and Rev.1).

Delegates were requested to submit their comments to the secretariat by 31 July 2016 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/98, para. 20).

4. The revised draft ToR is reproduced in the Annex on the basis of the comments made at the forty-ninth session of SC.3/WP.3 and subsequent proposals received by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2016/10 and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/98, paras. 14–19). A summary of the comments may be consulted in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2016/2.

5. The proposal of Germany to add a new paragraph 5 to Part II of the ToR (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2016/2), in the opinion of the secretariat, is not related to the ToR and establishes new Rules of Procedure and, therefore, is not included in the revised draft ToR. Furthermore, this proposal is not consistent with the Rules of Procedure of UNECE (E/ECE/778/Rev.5). SC.3 could therefore, consider this proposal under a separate agenda item, if it deems it necessary.

6. Following the proposal to refer to the European committee for drawing up common standards in the field of inland navigation of the European Union (CESNI) and the development of ES-TRIN standards, the secretariat added a reference to work of other international organizations and their standards.

7. The activity on environmental protection and on the carbon footprint adopted by SC.3 as a part of its present ToR is in line with the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe. It could therefore, remain in the new ToR, unless SC.3 decides otherwise.

8. ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2016/3 gives clarifications on a new SC.3 activity on resilience to climate changes. SC.3 may wish to include this item in its ToR for the next five years.

9. The proposal of France and Germany to use a “corridor approach” for River Information Services (RIS), in the opinion of the secretariat, needs further clarification as it was not introduced in SC.3 documents. SC.3 may wish to ask member States for a more detailed proposal.

## Annex

### **Working Party on Inland Water Transport**~~(SC.3)~~

### **Proposal for the revision of the Terms of Reference**~~(ToR)~~

#### **I. Mandate**

1. The guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within **the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** stipulate that each Working Party prepares its terms of reference (**ToR**) which must be adopted by its parent Sectoral Committee (ECE/EX/1, para. 3 (a)).

2. These terms of reference are based on the **Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) work plan for 2016–2020** ~~programme of work for 2010–2014~~ and the main expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement for ~~2010–2014~~ **2016–2017**, as adopted by the ~~fifty-third-ninth~~ session of the Working Party ~~in October 2009~~ **in November 2015** (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/483/201, para. 3469) and approved by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its ~~seventy-second~~ **eight** session in February ~~2010–2016~~ (ECE/TRANS/2010/8 **2016/31**~~and Corr.1~~).

## II. Terms of reference of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport

3. The Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) and its subsidiary body, i.e. the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3), act within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and the Economic Commission for Europe (hereafter UNECE) under the general supervision of the ITC and in conformity with the Terms of Reference (**ToR**) of UNECE (~~E/ECE/778/Rev.4~~ **E/ECE/778/Rev.5**).

4. SC.3 will operate in accordance with the UNECE Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Working Parties within UNECE as approved by the UNECE Executive Committee at its fourth meeting on 14 July 2006 (ECE/EX/1). These guidelines refer to its status and characteristics, including the review of its mandate and extension every 5 years, its membership and officers, its methods of work and its secretariat provided by the UNECE **Sustainable** Transport Division.

5. In line with the objective of the UNECE transport sub-programme to facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable transport, SC.3, assisted, where appropriate by SC.3/WP.3, will carry out the following activities:

### 1. *Organize a pan-European policy dialogue on the inland water transport (~~IWT~~) issues*

(a) Provide an inclusive and representative forum for exchange of experiences and best practices and providing guidance on how to address challenges in inland water transport (IWT) development;

(b) Prepare studies on the situation and trends in inland navigation in order to provide governments with up-to-date basic information and data concerning the inland water transport mode;

(c) Regularly publish **updates of its strategy and** policy papers (white papers, inventories of obstacles, etc.) on IWT to ~~inform the general public~~ **ensure sustainability of IWT about advantages of transport by inland waterway and issues in its development, enhance the visibility and availability of UNECE documents relevant to IWT.**

### 2. *Promote a coordinated development of inland waterway infrastructure*

(a) Monitor the implementation of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN), adopt amendments to the lists of inland waterways and ports and their parameters, as contained in the annexes to ~~the~~ AGN, and elaborate proposals on further development of the agreement;

(b) Maintain the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (~~UNECE “the Blue Book”~~), **the database of E Waterway Network (the Blue Book database)** and other relevant SC.3 resolutions and maps which provides regularly updated information on standards and parameters of E waterways and ports in Europe;

(c) Prepare ~~the list of action plans on eliminating concrete~~ bottlenecks and ~~completing~~ missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territory of more than one State Party to AGN ~~and preparing proposals on the development of concrete river-sea routes in the context of the AGN;~~

(d) Provide a forum for ad hoc committees, expert groups or round tables to further coordinate **and monitor** the development of the E waterway network.

3. *Address safety and operational requirements in inland navigation*

(a) Organize exchanges of views on selected aspects of new and improved techniques in ~~inland water transport~~ **IWT** with a view to their harmonization with the aim of facilitating and promoting international water transport in Europe;

(b) Harmonize ~~and maintain safety requirements~~ **the rules** for inland navigation in Europe with a view to ensuring homogeneous and internationally acceptable standards of navigation safety throughout the European network of inland waterways **taking into account standards of other international organizations**;

(c) Harmonize technical requirements for inland navigation vessels with a view to ensuring the high-level of navigation safety **and bring the added value** throughout the European network of inland waterways ~~and the reciprocal recognition on this basis of ship's certificates~~;

(d) ~~Harmonize technical requirements on the prevention of pollution by inland vessels~~; **Coordinate and support measures to modernize the inland water fleet at the pan-European level**;

(e) **Keep member States informed about developments in** ~~Address the issues of~~ mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and other issues related to the professional qualifications in the area of inland navigation;

(f) **Promote the use of River Information Services (RIS) and provide a forum for information exchange on developments and best practices in RIS implementation (bringing together countries of Eastern and Western Europe)**;

(~~g~~) **Promote the use development and safety of recreational navigation, water tourism and related issues, maintain the database of models of the International Certificate for Operator of Pleasure Craft (ICC)**.

~~4. Carry out other measures, aimed to facilitate the use of IWT, as recommended by the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/189):~~

~~(a) Coordinate and support measures to modernize inland water fleet at the pan-European level;~~

~~(b) Promote the use of River Information Services and other information communication technologies;~~

~~(c) Assist member States in responding effectively to new market requirements;~~

~~(d) Assist member States in addressing the labour market shortages at the pan-European level;~~

~~(e) Assist member States in tackling environmental challenges and the IWT carbon footprint;~~

~~(f) Assist member States in reinforcing the institutional and regulatory framework of IWT at the pan-European level.~~

4. *Promote integration of IWT in multimodal transport chains*

(a) **Prepare proposals on the development of river-sea routes in the context of AGN**;

(b) **Continue work on aligning the AGTC Protocol with AGN and contribute to the development of Eurasian transport links**;

(c) Provide a representative forum for exchanges of experience and best practices, and for providing guidance on how to promote integration of IWT in multimodal transport chains.

5. *Prevention of pollution from vessels and resilience to climate changes*

(a) Harmonize technical requirements on the prevention of pollution by inland vessels taking into account the standards of other international organizations;

(b) Assist member States with environmental challenges and the IWT carbon footprint by revising the technical regulations of the sector. Provide IWT related statistics necessary for the development of ForFITS tool;

(c) Provide a representative forum for exchange of information and best practices on the implication of climate changes on IWT, and assist member States in their activities aimed at enhancing the resilience of IWT to climate changes.

~~56. *Harmonize*~~ *Contribute to the harmonization of the legal framework for international IWT*

(a) Promote the implementation of existing UNECE Conventions pertaining to inland navigation and assessment of the legal instruments concerned **and discuss measures on how to make them more efficient;**

~~(b) Consider upgrading the status of Resolutions Nos. 61 (Recommendations on Harmonized Europe wide technical requirements for Inland navigation vessels), 24 (European Code for Inland Waterways) and 31 (Recommendations on boatmasters' certificates) including their possible conversion into binding instruments with a view to providing, inter alia, for reciprocal recognition by its Parties of ship's certificates and crew members' certificates issued on their basis;~~

(eb) Undertake other activities aimed at further harmonizing and simplifying the international legal framework for inland water transport **IWT** operations.

~~67. *Undertake other activities related to regional and international cooperation or requested by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee*~~

(a) Cooperate with the European Commission, River Commissions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other United Nations regional commissions and organizations or bodies of the United Nations system;

(b) Carry out other measures aimed at facilitating the use of IWT, as recommended by the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/189);

(c) Develop working contacts with River Commissions and basin administrations and, upon their request, facilitate the understanding of international conventions serviced by UNECE;

(bd) Collaborate closely with other subsidiary bodies of ITC and other UNECE bodies on matters of common interest;

(ee) Support ITC in addressing cross-sectorial issues, such as inland transport and security and inland transport and environment.