In drafting the document, the wording of section 1.8.3 of ADN 2015 (Volume 1) should be kept in mind:

“Each undertaking, the activities of which include the carriage, or the related packing, loading, filling or unloading, of dangerous goods by inland waterways shall appoint one or more safety advisers, hereinafter referred to as ‘advisers’, for the carriage of dangerous goods, responsible for helping to prevent the risks inherent in such activities with regard to persons, property and the environment.” (1.8.3.1)
and

“With regard to the undertaking’s activities, the adviser has the following duties in particular:

- Monitoring compliance with the requirements governing the carriage of dangerous goods;
- Advising his undertaking on the carriage of dangerous goods;
- Preparing an annual report to the management of his undertaking or a local public authority, as appropriate, on the undertaking’s activities in the carriage of dangerous goods. Such annual reports shall be preserved for five years and made available to the national authorities at their request.” (1.8.3.3).

2. At the twenty-ninth session of the Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN Safety Committee) (Geneva, 22-26 August 2016), during consideration of the training of experts on the transport of dangerous goods, the representative of the secretariat of the Danube Commission noted that there was currently no standard procedure on safety advisers (ADN, para. 1.8.3).

The Danube Commission is able to contribute to the preparation of documents for consideration. After consultations within the Commission and ECE, it was decided at a meeting of the Danube Commission working group on technical issues, from 18 to 21 October 2016, that it would be useful to agree to submit the initiative to ECE.

3. The secretariat is planning to draw up a handbook with at least 1,000 questions (and answers) and some 200 practical exercises. The Danube riparian countries and the secretariat of the Danube Commission will prepare the document by the end of 2017, for use by member States of the Commission from 2018.

4. If the outcome is positive, it will be mandatory for all ADN signatory States to use the handbook from 2019.

5. The secretariat of the Danube Commission supports this initiative and thinks it would be useful to continue consultations with the Commission’s member States and the ECE secretariat before a final decision is taken on preparing the handbook. The Commission’s working group on technical issues supported the secretariat’s proposal. It will be submitted as an initiative to the thirtieth session of the ADN Safety Committee (Geneva, 23-27 January 2017).