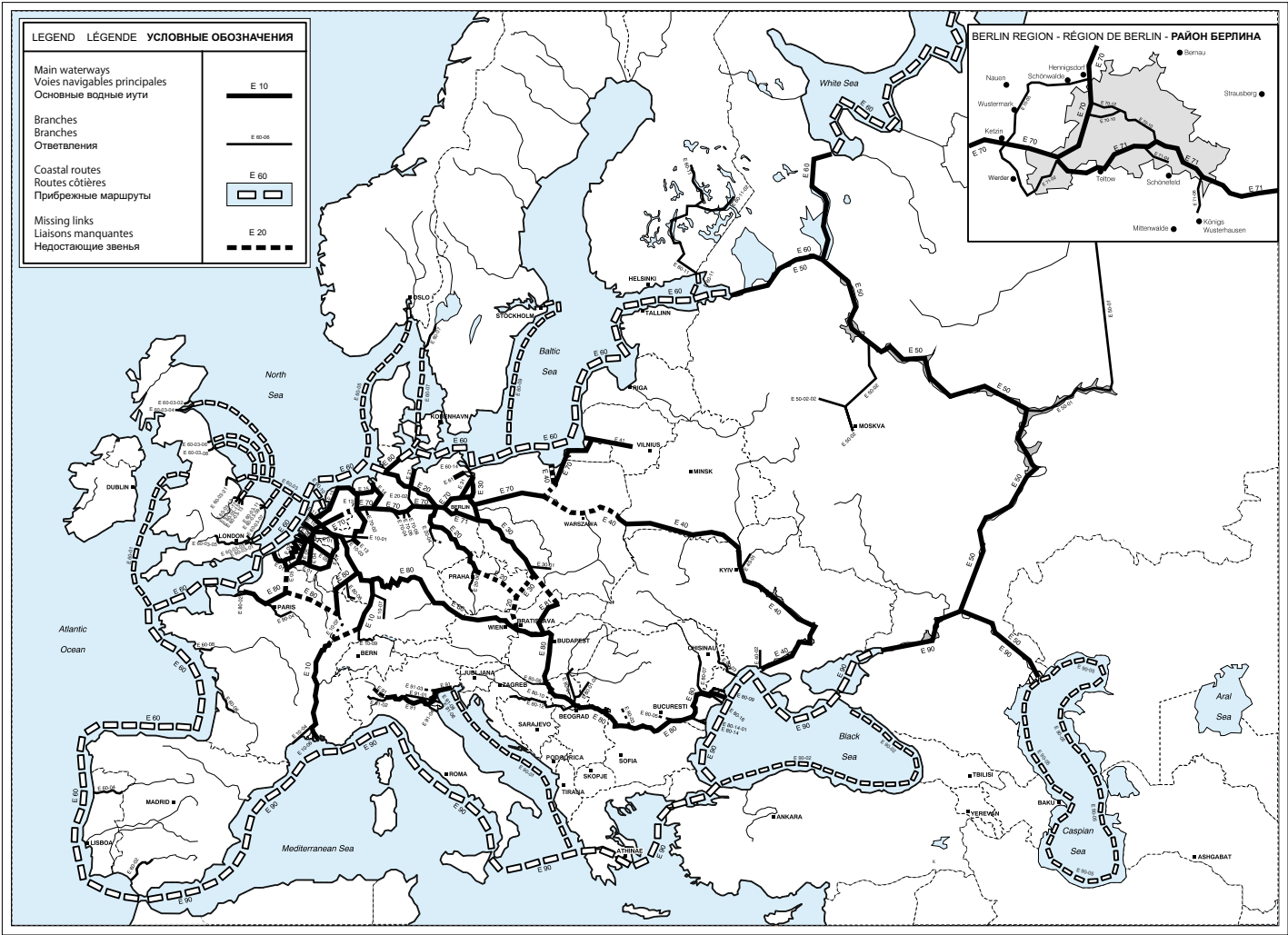


SCHEME OF THE NETWORK OF E WATERWAYS

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network

"Blue Book"
second revised edition



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The AGN and the Blue Book are managed by the UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) which is open to all UNECE member States, competent inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as to invited experts.

For more detailed information, please contact the UNECE secretariat at sc.3@unece.org or visit the UNECE Inland Water Transport webpage: www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/sc3.html.

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UNITED NATIONS

What are E Waterways?

The Pan-European network of inland waterways of international importance or simply “E waterways” (similarly to E roads, railways and combined transport lines) is set out in the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) - a United Nations treaty adopted by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee in 1996. The AGN entered into force on 26 July 1999 and 17 States are currently Contracting Parties:

- Austria

■ Belarus

■ Bosnia and Herzegovina

■ Bulgaria

■ Croatia

■ Czech Republic

■ Hungary

■ Italy

■ Lithuania
- Luxembourg

■ Netherlands

■ Republic of Moldova

■ Romania

■ Russian Federation

■ Slovakia

■ Switzerland

■ Ukraine

Finland, France, Germany and Greece signed the Agreement in 1997 but, have not yet become Contracting Parties. Other UNECE member States with important E waterways such as Belgium, Poland and Serbia are equally missing among the Contracting Parties.

The AGN establishes an international legal framework laying down a coordinated plan for the development and construction by governments of a network of inland waterways and ports of international importance, based on agreed infrastructure and operational parameters, which they intend to undertake within the framework of their relevant development programmes.

The AGN is based on the understanding that, in the development of transport by inland waterways, the role of international transport is predominant with the

ensuing need for building a network in Europe which should be:

- homogeneous, i.e. suitable for standard vessels, barges and pushed convoys in accordance with the classification of navigable waterways of international importance laid down in the AGN;
- suitable for efficient international transport, including operation of river-sea navigation vessels;
- integrated, integration being ensured between different river basins by means of connecting canals as well as by means of suitable coastal routes;
- able to accommodate the most important cargo flows, this condition being dependent on the sufficient density of the waterway network and on the reasonable development of the network in all European countries concerned.

What is the “Blue Book”?

The “Blue Book” presents a regularly updated inventory of existing and envisaged standards and parameters of E waterways and ports in Europe and shows, on an internationally comparable basis, the current inland navigation infrastructure parameters as compared to the minimum standards and parameters prescribed in the AGN. Equally, the Blue Book identifies bottlenecks and missing links in the existing E waterway network.

This 2nd revised edition of the Blue Book has been prepared in 2012 by the UNECE Transport Division in accordance with the instructions of member States, both Contracting Parties to the AGN and those not yet Contracting Parties.

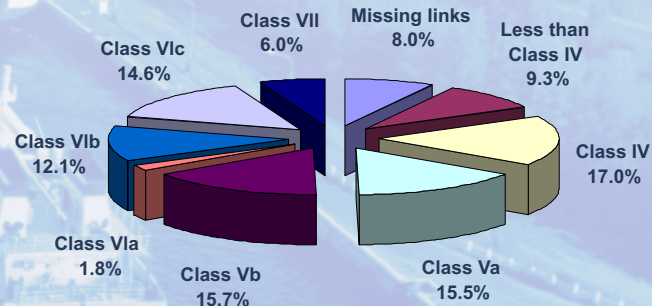
The hard copy may be purchased from the UN Bookshop:
unp.un.org/Browse.aspx?department=11

A free online version of the Blue Book may be found in PDF format by accessing:
www.unece.org/transport/resources/publications.html

On 12 October 2012, UNECE has also made available an online Blue Book database, where the technical parameters of each E waterway may be searched by waterway number or by country. The Blue Book is revised on a quinquennial basis, while the online database is updated on receipt of new parameters from governments. The database is available at:
www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/bluebook_database.html

Structure of the E waterway network

In total, 29,172 km of European inland waterways have been earmarked by Governments as E waterways classified as follows:



	Missing links	Less than class IV	Class IV	Class Va	Class Vb	Class VIa	Class VIb	Class VIc	Class VII	TOTAL
Length (km)	2,328	2,719	4,963	4,514	4,590	524	3,532	4,255	1,747	29,172
%	8.0	9.3	17.0	15.5	15.7	1.8	12.1	14.6	6.0	100