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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Working Party on the Standardization of Technical  
and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE STANDARDIZATION  
OF TECHNICAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN INLAND NAVIGATION  
ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION (5-7 June 2007)**

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## **I. ATTENDANCE**

1. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) held its thirty-first session from 5-7 June 2007. Representatives of the following countries participated: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Switzerland. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also took part in the session: Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Danube Commission (DC) and International Sava River Basin Commission. The United Kingdom and the European Commission (EC) informed the secretariat that they were unable to attend.

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)**

2. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/61).

### III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 2)

3. Mr. Evgeny Kormyshov (Russian Federation) was re-elected Chairman of the session.

### IV. FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE EUROPEAN CODE FOR INLAND WATERWAYS (CEVNI) (Agenda item 3)

Documentation: TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.2 and Amends. 1-2; draft ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.3

4. The Working party took note of the draft third revised version of CEVNI incorporating the amendments introduced by resolutions Nos. 54 and 62 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.3). The Working party then proceeded to consider the following amendments to CEVNI.

#### A. Chapter 1, “General Provisions” (Agenda item 3a)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/4/Add.2 and Informal Doc. No. 1

5. The Working Party **decided** not to add to the list of documents in article 1.10 of CEVNI, a document confirming the nationality of the vessel, its registration and the unique European vessel identification number, considering that this information is contained in the ship’s certificate already listed in article 1.10.

6. The Working Party discussed the issue of specific registration numbers for sea vessels and considered that the need for this additional requirement should be further assessed. It **decided** to ask Governments to study this question and to send their comments to the secretariat by 20 July 2007 for the submission at the next SC.3 working session.

7. The Working Party further noted that the numbers assigned to countries by the draft amendments to the EC Directive 2006/87/EC differ from the official numbers, contained in Chapter 2 of the annex to Resolution No. 61, which means that some countries would have to bear costs of changing their current certification process. The Working Party decided to ask Governments to react on the issue of change of official numbers and on the need to amend the annex to Resolution No. 61.

#### B. Amendment of Chapter 6, “Rules of the road” (Agenda item 3b)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2006/1; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2006/1/Add.1

8. The Working Party considered the proposals by the Danube Commission and the secretariat regarding the prescriptions for the use of small craft on inland waterways. It was **decided** not to modify the current articles 6.01 and 6.02 of CEVNI. The Working Party, however, recognized the need for elaborating specific rules for small crafts and **decided** to ask Governments and the River commissions to send their views and proposals on such regulations to the secretariat by 15 December 2007, so the issue could be considered in more detail at the next working session.

### C. Annex 5, “Intensity and range of signal lights on vessels” (Agenda item 3c)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/9; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/4/Add.1

9. The Working Party took note of document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/9, which reproduced in the three official UNECE languages EN Standard 14744:2005 on navigation lights for inland navigation vessels and sea-going vessels. It welcomed the proposal by Germany to amend article 1.01 and annex 5 in accordance with this standard, noting that this would harmonize the requirements on navigational lights to inland and maritime vessels. It adopted the proposal contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/4/Add.1, subject to the following corrections:


- Correct the misprint in the table on page 3 (row 4, column 8) by replacing 6.5 with 65;
- Take out the square brackets in the beginning of the text;
- Delete footnote 3 and renumber current footnote 4 as footnote 3;
- In the Russian text, replace acronym COLREG with MIIIIC.

10. The Working Party decided to recommend that SC.3 take note of this decision at its fifty-first session in October 2007, but that SC.3 abstain from bringing any modification to CEVNI at this point, so this amendment can be combined with the other substantial amendments in the future.

### D. Other amendments to CEVNI (Agenda item 3d)

11. The Working Party agreed to amend the table in Annex 1 “Distinguishing Letter or Group of Letters Indicating Country of Vessels’ Home Port or Place of Registration” to introduce the new Alpha-2 code (“RS”) for Serbia.

12. The Danube Commission proposed the following additional amendments:

- To include a visual representation of signal “Do not approach” in annex 6, immediately after the signal “I am unable to manoeuvre”;
-  --- repeated, one short and one long blast;
- In article 4.05, first sentence of paragraph 1, replace the preposition “or” by “and”.

13. The Working Party **asked** Governments to submit their position on the proposal by the Danube Commission to the secretariat, by the SC.3 October 2007 session.

### E. Possible upgrading of CEVNI status (Agenda item 3e)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2007/1; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/1 and Add.1

14. The Working Party extensively discussed the proposal to convert CEVNI into a binding legal document. It expressed its gratitude to the Austrian delegation for raising this important issue and noted that identifying similarities and differences in the regulations applicable to specific river basins would help to further harmonize navigation rules and would facilitate the work of skippers. The Working Party, therefore, **agreed** to start work on identifying core regulations applicable to all river basins. As part of this activity, the Working Party **asked** River

Commissions and Governments to identify which of their navigation regulations differ from CEVNI. The Working Party asked River Commissions to prepare a comparative analysis of their regulations by the next SC.3/WP.3 session.

**V. AMENDMENTS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HARMONIZED EUROPE-WIDE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INLAND NAVIGATION VESSELS (ANNEX TO RESOLUTION NO. 61) (Agenda item 4)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172

15. The Working Party **took note** of the publication by the secretariat of UNECE Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide Technical requirements for Inland Navigation vessels (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172).

**A. Specific requirements for sea-going vessels, recreational craft and sea-river vessels (Agenda item 4a)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/2; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/3; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/4; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/5

16. The Working Party noted that, in accordance with the decision of the fiftieth session of SC.3, the SC.3 Group of Volunteers met in Geneva on 29 May – 1 June 2007 to start work on missing Chapters 20 (“Specific requirements applicable to sea-going vessels”) and 21 (“Specific requirements applicable to recreational craft”).

17. The Working Party **endorsed** the decision by the Group of Volunteers to divide Chapter 20 into two parts: part 20 A) on specific requirements applicable to sea-going vessels and part 20 B) on specific requirements applicable to river-sea vessels. The Working Party **approved** the decision of the Group of Volunteers to use, as basis for their work, the following documents:

- For Chapter 20 A): the text of Chapter 20 of the Rhine Vessels Inspection Regulations (document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/4).
- For Chapter 20 B): national legislation on river-sea vessels in Belgium (document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/3); in the Russian Federation (document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/8) and other countries.
- For Chapter 21: the Chapter 21 of EC Directive 2006/87/EC concerning specific requirements applicable to recreational craft (document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/2).

18. The Working Party **recommended** that the Group of Volunteers finalize draft Chapter 21, in time for the SC.3 October 2007 session and draft Chapter 20 in time for the next session of SC.3/WP.3. The Working Party also **recommended** that in their work on section 20 B), experts address the issue of documents that needed to be carried on board of vessels concerned.

## **B. Amendment of Chapter 2 (Agenda item 4b)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/4/Add.2 and Informal doc. No. 1

19. The Working Party reverted to its earlier discussion on the Unique European Vessel Identification number and on the difference in the numbers contained in the section 2.7 of the annex to Resolution No. 61 and the future amended provisions of EC Directive 2006/87/EC. The Working Party noted again that some countries might wish to react to this change of official numbers. It, therefore, **asked** the secretariat to prepare and distribute a proposal of the revised section 2.7, based on the text reproduced in Informal document No. 1, so that by the October session of SC.3, Governments would have time to express their position on the proposed amendments.

## **C. Amendment of Appendix 1 (Agenda item 4c)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/6

20. The Working Party considered the draft amendments to Appendix 1, based on Annex I to Directive 2006/87/EC and on the latest communications from Governments, prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/6). The delegations of Croatia and Serbia asked that the current draft be revised to correct information on their inland waterways. The Working Party **asked** the delegations to send their corrections to the secretariat, **agreed** to recommend that the Working Party SC.3 adopt the amendments proposed in the document, subject to the corrections made by the Serbian and Croatian delegations. It further **asked** Governments to inform the secretariat of any significant changes to the status of their inland waterways in the future, so the Appendix I could remain as accurate as possible.

## **VI. RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF SHIP'S CERTIFICATES AND BOATMASTER'S LICENSES (Agenda item 5)**

### **A. Elaboration of harmonized procedure for consideration of applications for recognition of ship's certificates and boatmasters' licenses (Agenda item 5a)**

Documentation: TRANS/SC.3/2005/5/Add.1

21. The Working Party considered document TRANS/SC.3/2005/5/Add.1 containing the draft procedures and conditions for the recognition of ship's certificates and boatmasters' licenses elaborated by the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine. Recognizing the need for a harmonized procedure for recognition of ship's certificates and boatmasters' licenses and taking note of the work already initiated by a joint DC/CCNR ad Hoc working group, the Working Party:

- **Asked** the River Commissions to send to the secretariat any relevant information or documentation on this issue;
- **Recommended** that at its October 2007 session, SC.3 set up a group of volunteers who would initiate work on a possible UNECE instrument, based on document TRANS/SC.3/2005/5/Add.1;
- **Asked** Governments to comment and share information on their experience in

recognizing foreign ship's certificates and boatmasters' licenses and to nominate an expert to participate in the group of volunteers.

**B. Updating the Recommendation on Minimum requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licences in Inland Navigation (Resolution No. 31) (Agenda item 5b)**

Documentation: TRANS/SC.3/131

22. The Working Party noted that no comments were received from Governments on the methods of updating the recommendations by the deadline, as agreed upon during the previous SC.3/WP.3 session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/60, para. 23). The Working Party considered that the future group of volunteers would use Resolution No. 31 as one of its main working documents and, therefore, **decided** to postpone the discussion on the revision of Resolution No. 31 until the group had made some progress.

**VII. REQUIREMENTS FOR PREVENTION OF WATER POLLUTION FROM VESSELS (Agenda item 6)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/9

23. The Working Party reviewed the latest draft of the revised Resolution No. 21, observing that no additional comments from Governments were received by the secretariat. The Chairman noted that paragraph 13 of the draft resolution had raised some debates within the Working Party in the past and proposed the following alternative wording (new text is highlighted in bold):

“13. The “polluter pays” principle is to be applied. In principle, the operational costs of the on-shore reception facilities for collection, treatment and disposal of ship-borne waste should finally be borne by inland navigation. Nevertheless, **it is essential to strive to ensure that** payment for discharge of on-board generated waste into reception facilities should not be direct, so that the vessel operator will not be able to avoid disposal fees for such waste by discharging it into inland waterways. To that end, Governments may introduce any form of payment for the collection and treatment of waste generated on board ships. In particular, financial schemes such as the coverage of shore-based collection and disposal expenses for waste generated on board ships through additional fuel taxes and/or port duties should be considered and introduced”.

24. The Working Party **approved** the new wording of paragraph 13 and **decided** to recommend that SC.3 adopt the text of the revised Resolution No. 21, including the amendment proposed by the Chairman, at its fifty-first session.

## **VIII. FURTHER DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON MAIN INLAND WATERWAYS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (AGN) (Agenda item 7)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/7 ; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/8; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/10; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174/Add.1; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/168/Add.1

25. The Working Party had an extensive exchange of views on the proposal to introduce into the AGN, provisions regarding the protection of the network of inland waterways from external influence. It recalled its previous discussions on this subject, noting that at its fiftieth session, Governments approved the idea of introducing a new Annex IV on the “Protection of the network from the external influence”. The Working Party, however, **took note** of the interventions made by several delegations drawing its attention to the ongoing discussions on inland transport security on the national level, within River Commissions and other organisations. In this context, the Working Party considered it premature to make a decision on the current draft Annex IV and **decided** to come back to this issue at its next session. Meanwhile, it **invited** Governments and River Commissions to send to the secretariat any relevant information and documentation as soon as it became available. The Working Party also **asked** SC.3 at its October 2007 session to take note of the SC.3/WP.3 discussions and to give further instructions on the possible content of the Annex IV.

26. The Working Party **took note** of the proposal of amendments to Annex I (“List of inland waterways of international importance”) and to Annex II (“List of inland navigation ports of international importance”), prepared by the secretariat. It **decided** to forward the proposal to SC.3 for adoption in the October 2007 session, noting that Governments would have time to consider the document and notify the secretariat of corrections, if any, before the SC.3 session.

## **IX. COMMON PRINCIPLES AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PAN-EUROPEAN RIVER INFORMATION SERVICES (RIS) (Agenda item 8)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/156/Rev.1; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/175; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/176

27. The Working Party **took note** of the publication by the secretariat of the following resolutions adopted by SC.3 with a view to establishing river information services on E waterways:

- Resolution No. 48, Revision 1, Recommendation on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/156/Rev.1);
- Resolution No. 60, International standards for notices to skippers and for electronic ship reporting in inland navigation (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/175);
- Resolution No. 63, International Standards for Tracking and Tracing in Inland Waterways (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/176).

28. The Working Party was informed of the progress in the adoption of technical requirements on river information services in the Danube Commission and in the European Community. The Working Party considered it important to continue the work on further improvement of the above-mentioned resolutions.



**X. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 9)**

**A. Preliminary Proposal of Expected Accomplishments and Indicators of Achievement for the inland waterways (Agenda item 9a)**

29. The secretariat informed the Working Party that the UNECE Inland Transport Committee was preparing a biennial evaluation of its activities in 2008-2009 and, in this context, was asking its Working Parties to identify the main expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement in their areas of work. The Working Party **asked** Governments to comment on the draft proposal of the main expected accomplishment and indicators of achievement for inland water transport to be distributed by the secretariat prior to the October 2007 session of SC.3.

**B. Future programme of work of the SC.3/WP.3 (Agenda item 9b)**

30. The Chairman observed that, since the completion work on Resolution No. 61, the amount of work of SC.3/WP.3 had decreased and that the Working Party needed to further consider how it could develop its work in the future. The Working Party **noted** the importance of two items discussed earlier during the meeting, namely, achieving greater unification of regulations on European inland waterways and facilitating the recognition of boatmasters' licenses. The Working Party **asked** Governments to submit their proposals regarding other possible work items to the secretariat, so they could be discussed at the next session.

**C. Date of the next session (Agenda item 9c)**

31. The thirty-second session of the Working Party is scheduled to take place from 5-7 March 2008.

**XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (Agenda item 10)**

32. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party adopted the report of the thirty-first session on the basis of the draft prepared by the secretariat.

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