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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Fifty-second session
Geneva, 13-15 October 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION^{1,2}

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 13 October 2008

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party
3. Current situation and trends in inland water transport

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. Only informal documentation will be available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website <<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/sc3.html>>. During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website <<http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html>>. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by email (sc.3@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext. 74030). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see <<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>>.

4. Measures aimed to promote transport by inland waterways
5. Transport and security
6. European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)
 - (a) Status of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)
 - (b) Amendments to the lists of inland waterways and inland navigation ports of international importance (Annexes I and II of the AGN Agreement)
 - (c) Protection of the E waterway network from intentional external influence
 - (d) Establishment of sea-river and coastal routes in the context of the AGN Agreement
 - (e) Inventory of main standards and parameters of the E waterway network (“Blue Book”) and the map of European inland waterways
7. Standardization of technical and safety requirements in inland navigation
 - (a) European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI)
 - (b) Harmonization of traffic regulations on European waterways
 - (c) Amendments to the Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61)
8. Common principles and technical requirements for pan-european river information services (RIS)
9. Harmonized procedure for consideration of applications for recognition of ship’s certificates and boatmasters’ licenses
 - (a) Mutual recognition of ship’s certificates
 - (b) Mutual recognition of boatmasters’ licences
10. Harmonization of the legal framework for international inland water transport
 - (a) Application of UNECE Resolutions relating to inland navigation
 - (b) Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI)
 - (c) The 1988 Strasbourg Convention on Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation
 - (d) Bilateral and multilateral agreements for international inland water transport
11. International certificate for operators of pleasure craft (Resolution No. 40)
12. Inland waterways infrastructure development and the environment
13. Workshops on inland navigation matters
14. White Paper on trends in and development of inland navigation and its infrastructure
15. Other business
 - (a) Transport of people with reduced mobility
 - (b) Election of officers

- (c) Tentative list of meetings for 2009
16. Adoption of the report

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/180

1. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2. Activities of UNECE bodies of interest to the Working Party

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/200; ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/25

2. The Working Party will be informed of the following decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) taken at its seventieth session (19-21 February 2008) and related to the work of the Working Party:

- (a) Future development of developing Euro-Asian transport links (paras. 4-9);
- (b) Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (paras.24-25);
- (c) Transport and security (paras. 35-37);
- (d) Activities related to seaports' connections to the hinterland (paras. 53-54);
- (e) European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (paras. 101-104).

3. The Working Party will be also informed of the pertinent activities and results of work 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) (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/25).

Item 3. Current situation and trends in inland water transport in member countries

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/1 and Add.1

4. The Working Party may wish to take note of the first progress report of the European Commission's Integrated Programme of Action for the Promotion of Inland Waterway Transport ("NAIADES"), as contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/1. The Working Party may also wish to have an exchange of views on the current situation and prospects for inland navigation in the UNECE region based on a succinct report, prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/1/Add.1).

Item 4. Measures aimed to promote transport by inland waterways

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2007/12

5. At its fiftieth session, the Working Party had started work on a possible follow-up by UNECE to the 2006 Bucharest Pan-European Conference on Inland Waterway Transport (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174, para. 14). As a result, in February 2007 the UNECE Inland Transport Committee adopted Resolution No. 258 on “Supporting Further Development of Inland Water Transport”, which contained a plan of action for the implementation of the conference decision (ECE/TRANS/192, annex II) and which led to modification of the SC.3 programme of work (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 34).

6. The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about progress made in implementing the revised programme of work.

Item 5. Transport and security

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/2

7. At its fiftieth session, the Working Party had taken note of the request by the Inland Transport Committee to its subsidiary bodies to accelerate their work on the transport and security issues and noted that it addressed this issue by considering the introduction of security related provisions in the Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174, para. 9). At its fifty-first session, the Working Party took note of the creation of a Multidisciplinary group of experts on inland transport security at the ITC sixty-ninth session and agreed to follow the work of the Group of Experts and to contribute by sharing information on the progress in considering the above-mentioned security provisions (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174, para. 6).

8. The Working Party will be informed of the progress in the work of the Multidisciplinary group of experts on inland transport security and discuss its implications for the SC.3 activities.

Item 6. European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)

(a) Status of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/120/Rev.1; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174/Add.1

9. At present, the AGN Agreement has 15 Contracting Parties.³ The Working Party may wish to be informed of the intentions of other UNECE member Governments to accede to the agreement.

³ Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Switzerland

10. Detailed information on the AGN Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the agreement (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/120/Rev.1), as well as all relevant Depository Notifications, are available at the website of the Working Party.^{4,5}

(b) Amendments to the lists of inland waterways and inland navigation ports of international importance (Annexes I and II of the AGN Agreement)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/3

11. At its fifty-first session, the Working Party had approved, in principle, a number of amendments proposed to Annexes I and II of the AGN Agreement, prepared by the secretariat based on information received in the course of the revision of the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (“Blue Book”, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.1). The Working Party, decided, however, to adopt such amendment proposals to the AGN annexes, as a package, every two years only and postponed the formal approval of these amendments to its fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 11).

12. The Working Party may wish to formally approve the amendment proposals to annexes I and II, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/3. These include proposals considered by the Working Party at its last session as well as new proposals (points 6, 13, 14, 15), transmitted by Governments directly concerned and already reviewed by the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) at its thirty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 18).

(c) Protection of the E waterway network from intentional external influence

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2007/7/Add.1; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/4

13. At its fifty-first session, the Working Party had considered a new draft annex IV to the AGN Agreement on “Protection of the E waterway network from intentional external influence” (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/7/Add.1) and decided that that it was premature to adopt the draft, given the ongoing relevant activities in other international organizations and bodies, such as the European Commission (EC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Working Party requested the secretariat to circulate the draft to the EC, as well as to the UNECE Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security, and re-submit it for consideration at the next SC.3/WP.3 session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 12).

14. No objections to the draft annex were received from the European Commission and the Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Inland Transport Security. SC.3/WP.3 discussed this issue at its thirty-second and thirty-third sessions and concluded that discussions on a new Annex IV should be postponed to a later stage. SC.3/WP.3 proposed, as an alternative solution, to transform the draft text into a separate SC.3 Resolution (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 20). A draft of such a resolution is presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/4. The Working Party may wish to decide on the preferred option with respect to this issue.

⁴ <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/legalinst_06_TINF_AGN.html>

⁵ It should be noted that only the text kept in custody by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his capacity, as depository of the AGN agreement, constitutes the authoritative text of the agreement.

(d) Establishment of sea-river and coastal routes in the context of the AGN Agreement

15. The Working Party had discussed, at its forty-seventh and forty-ninth sessions, the proposal by the Russian Federation and Ukraine to establish a list of possible sea-river routes in the context of the AGN Agreement (TRANS/SC.3/2003/3). At its fiftieth session, Governments decided to keep this item on the agenda but postpone a decision until the outcome of the discussions on including specific requirements for sea-river vessels in the Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (annex to resolution No. 61), (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174, paras. 24-25). The Working Party will be informed on progress in the work of its Group of Volunteer experts.

(e) Inventory of main standards and parameters of the E waterway network (“Blue Book”) and the map of European inland waterways

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.1; ECE/TRANS/NONE/2006

16. The first revised edition of the “Blue Book” approved at the Working Party’s fiftieth session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.1), and the map of European inland waterways (ECE/TRANS/NONE/2006) had been published in 2006. The Working Party may wish to invite Governments and River Commissions to share their views on these publications, as well as discuss measures aimed at the elimination of bottlenecks and the completion of missing links identified in the “Blue Book”. The Working Party may also wish to note that Blue book will be mentioned as the main reference document in the forthcoming revised UNECE paper on “Methodological basis for the definition of common criteria regarding bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service of infrastructure networks” (TRANS/WP.5/R.60)

Item 7. Standardization of technical and safety requirements in inland navigation

17. The Working Party may wish to note that the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) held two sessions in 2008 and that the session reports were circulated as documents ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/64 and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66. The Working Party may wish to consider the main activities carried out by SC.3/WP.3 as mentioned below, endorse or comment on them and give guidance where necessary.

(a) European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.3; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/5

18. The Working Party may wish to note that the third revised version of CEVNI incorporating the amendments introduced by resolutions Nos. 54 and 62 had been published by the secretariat as document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.3.

19. As for the future amendments, the Working Party may wish to consider the amendments, proposed by the secretariat and approved by SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 12), as contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/5. These amendments update the references to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN). The Working Party may wish to approve these amendments and

add them to the package of future amendments to CEVNI, which include the amendments approved at the fifty-first session of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, paras. 21-24).

(b) Harmonization of traffic regulations on European waterways

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.3; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/6; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/15; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/16

20. Following the Austrian proposal to upgrade the legal status of CEVNI (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2007/1) and in the light of comments received from Governments (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/1 and Add.1), the Working Party decided to focus on the ongoing work, led by the Austrian delegation, to identify the differences between the CEVNI provisions and that of national and River Commissions' navigation rules (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 25).

21. In this context, the Working Party may wish to take note of a comparison document, prepared by Austria, which lists the differences between CEVNI, Police Regulations for the Navigation of the Rhine, Basic Rules of Navigation on the Danube and the Rules for the Navigation on Sava (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/6). The partial version of the document had been presented at the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/14). Furthermore, the Working Party may wish to note that an informal group of experts, composed of the representatives of River Commissions, the Netherlands and Austria, is working on proposals for the further harmonization of these three instruments, based on the comparison document. First such proposals were considered at the thirty-third session of SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/15, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/16), where it was decided to dedicate the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-fourth session in February 2009 for consideration of possible amendments to CEVNI, proposed on the basis of the comparison work accomplished by Austria (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 10).

(c) Amendments of the Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (annex to Resolution No. 61)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/7; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/8

22. The Working Party, at its special session in March 2006 and at its fiftieth session, had decided to bring Section 2-7 "official number" in line with Annex II to EC Directive 2006/87/EC as soon as the work on the provisions regarding the unique European Vessel Identification Number (ENI) was finalized (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/171, para. 6 (vi)). The first proposal on amendments to Section 2-7 was considered at the fifty-first session and forwarded to SC.3/WP.3 for additional re-examination, as not all delegations were convinced that the official number should remain invariable throughout the existence of the vessel (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 17). The Working Party may wish to note that SC.3/WP.3 re-examined and finalized the amendments at its thirty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 14) and may decide to approve the draft amendments, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/7.

23. Furthermore, the Working Party may wish to approve the new chapters 20 and 21 on special requirements sea-going vessels and recreational vessels (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/8),

prepared by the group of volunteer experts and approved by SC.3/WP.3 at its thirty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 15). The Working Party may wish to note that the volunteer experts continued their work on special requirements for river-sea vessels, on the basis of the document submitted by the Russian Federation on possible ways of and methodology for elaborating technical requirements for sea-river vessels (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2006/8) and comments received from Governments (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2007/5). The Working Party may support the invitation of SC3/WP.3 to reinforce the group of volunteer experts on Resolution No. 61 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 30).

24. Finally, the Working Party may wish to note that the amendments to Appendix 1, "List of European Inland Waterways divided geographically into zones 1, 2 and 3", approved at the fifty-first session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 19) had been published by the secretariat as Resolution No. 64 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Amend.1).

Item 8. Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for pan-european river information services (RIS)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/156/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/9

25. At its fiftieth session, the Working Party had approved the updated versions of technical annexes to Resolution No. 48 on "Recommendation on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS)" and to Resolution No. 60 on "International Standards for Notices to Skippers and for Electronic Ship Reporting in Inland Navigation" (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174, paras. 44-51). The Working Party had also approved Resolution No. 63 on "International Standards for Tracking and Tracing in Inland Waterways" (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/174, para. 52). These resolutions have been published by the secretariat as documents ECE/TRANS/SC.3/156/Rev.1 (Resolution No. 48), ECE/TRANS/SC.3/175 (Resolution No. 60) and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/176 (Resolution No. 63).

26. At its fifty-first session, the Working Party had noted that the adoption of Resolutions Nos. 48, 57, 60 and 63 was only a first step towards the creation of a harmonized framework for the river information services and recognized that these instruments needed to reflect the progress of international groups of experts on RIS related technical standards. The Working Party may wish to consider and approve the amendments to Resolution No.48, submitted by the president of the Inland ECDIS Harmonization Group (IENG) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/9).

27. The Working Party will also be informed of progress made in the implementation of RIS services by Croatia, Republic of Serbia and Ukraine and lessons learned.

Item 9. Harmonized procedure for consideration of applications for recognition of ship's certificates and boatmasters' licenses

28. At its fifty-first session, the Working Party had considered the recommendation by SC.3/WP.3 to establish a group of volunteers to prepare a possible SC.3 instrument in this area and to Resolution No. 31 "Minimum requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licences in Inland Navigation". The Working Party requested the secretariat to translate the relevant EC Directives in all UNECE working languages and asked SC.3/WP.3 to consider this issue in detail

during its 2008 sessions, creating, when appropriate, the group of volunteers (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 26). The issues of mutual recognition of ship's certificates and boatmasters' licences were addressed by SC.3/WP.3 and the results of these discussions are presented below.

(a) Mutual recognition of ship's certificates

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/10

29. SC.3/WP.3, at its thirty-third session, had a profound exchange of information on the current situation in the different river basins and on the use of Resolution No. 61 for ensuring the mutual recognition of ship's certificates. It noted progress achieved in this area by the CCNR member countries and observed that the recognition was closely linked to the harmonized technical prescriptions for vessels. SC.3/WP.3 had asked the secretariat to prepare a draft address to Governments, recommending that countries recognize the ship's certificates issued based on Resolution No. 61 for the SC.3 fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 23).

30. The Working Party may, therefore, wish to review the draft text, presented in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/10, and provide guidance, if appropriate, to SC.3/WP.3 and the secretariat.

(b) Mutual recognition of boatmasters' licences

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/11; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/12

31. The Working Party may wish to take note of the SC.3/WP.3 discussions on mutual recognition during the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-second and thirty-third sessions (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/64, para. 14, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 24). It may wish to note, in particular, the creation of a group of volunteers to prepare amendments to the UNECE Resolution No. 31 "Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licenses in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic". The Working Party will be informed of the first discussions within the group of volunteers on the revision of the resolution. The Working Party may also wish to take note of the adoption by CCNR in May 2008 of Protocols 17 and 18, recognizing national licences of some CCNR member countries, as well as Romanian licences (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/11). The Working Party may also wish to take note of the CCNR Resolution 2005-I-4 (Protocol 4) which provides a comparative analysis of the Rhine regulations and the provisions adopted by the European Community (Directive 96/50/CE) and which is presented in document (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/12).

32. Finally, the Working Party will be informed about the activities of European Commission on the harmonization of boatmasters' certificates in the field of inland water transport and discuss its implications for the work of SC.3.

Item 10. Harmonization of the legal framework for international inland water transport

(a) Application of UNECE resolutions relating to inland navigation

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/13

33. The Working Party may wish to take note of rectifications or additions, if any, to the status of the application by Governments of SC.3 resolutions that have been effected since its fifty-first session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/13).

(b) Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI)

34. At present, the CMNI Agreement has 12 Contracting Parties.⁶ Information on CMNI Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the agreement as well as all relevant are available at the website of the Working Party.

35. The Working Party may wish to be informed of the intentions of other UNECE member Governments to accede to the agreement, as well as to discuss issues related to its practical implementation.

(c) The 1988 Strasbourg Convention on Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/14

36. The Working Party will be informed of progress made in the elaboration of a draft Protocol to the 1988 Strasbourg Convention on Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation (TRANS/SC.3/R.130) under the auspices of the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine, in order to facilitate accession to this convention for non-signatory States (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/14). The Working Party may wish to discuss these developments taking into account the recommendations by the Bucharest Pan-European Conference on Inland Waterway Transport and consider, in particular, the role and possible contribution of UNECE to this process.

(d) Bilateral and multilateral agreements for international inland water transport

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/15

37. The Working Party may wish to note that the up-to-date text and status of all UNECE Agreements and Conventions on transport issues may be consulted at the Inland Transport Committee's website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/agree_e.pdf>. The Working Party may wish to invite UNECE member Governments to accede to the legal instruments of relevance to inland navigation if they have not yet done so. The secretariat will also present rectifications or additions, if any, brought to the table describing the status of bilateral and multilateral agreements between UNECE member Governments on inland navigation matters (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/15).

⁶ Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Switzerland

Item 11. International certificate for operators of pleasure craft (Resolution No. 40)

Documentation: TRANS/SC.3/147; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/16

38. The Working Party may wish to consider amendment proposal to Resolution No. 40 on International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (TRANS/SC.3/147), contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/16. Furthermore, the Working Party may wish to endorse the SC.3/WP.3 recommendation to address Governments to adopt Resolution No. 40.

Item 12. Inland waterways infrastructure development and the environment

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/17 and Add.1.

39. In the Plan of Action for the implementation of the decisions taken by the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport, Ministers had invited the River Commissions for navigation and environment of the Danube and the Rhine to establish procedures for a structured dialogue on environmental issues concerning inland waterway infrastructure projects and to support these processes (ITC Resolution No. 258, item 21). In this context, the Working Party may wish to take note of the Joint Statement on Guiding Principles on the Development of Inland Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Danube River Basin, initiated by the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), Danube Commission and the International Sava River Basin Commission, contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/17. The Working Party may wish to note that SC.3/WP.3 had reviewed the Joint Statement and had recommended considering the elaboration of a resolution on an integrated planned approach, integrated planning principles and criteria for river engineering (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 25). A proposal of such a resolution, prepared by the secretariat, is contained in the addendum to the document.

40. The Working Party will also be informed of the experiences in the application of the environmental impact assessment to inland waterways infrastructure development in the framework of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991).

Item 13. Workshops on inland navigation matters

41. The Working Party may wish to consider the organization of further workshops on subjects of inland navigation, which may need preliminary discussions by all interested parties concerned.

Item 14. White paper on trends in and development of inland navigation and its infrastructure

Documentation: TRANS/SC.3/138; ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/18

42. The Working Party will be informed about the progress in the preparation of the second edition of the White Paper (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2008/18).

Item 15. Other business

(a) Transport of people with reduced mobility

43. Following the proposal by the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party had agreed to include in its programme of work the transport of people with reduced mobility, noting that this issue was already covered in some of its instruments, such as the 1986 Resolution No. 25, which contains Guidelines for Passenger Vessels also suited for carrying Disabled Persons and, more recently, Resolution No. 61 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para. 37). As the Working Party requested, SC.3/WP.3 had studied the provisions related to people with reduced mobility in Resolutions Nos. 25 and 61, taking note of Administrative Instructions No. 22 to annex II of EC Directive 2006/87/EC to be adopted by the European Union and legislation applicable in the Russian Federation (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/27, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/28). The Working Party concluded that Resolution No. 25 needed to be revised in the light of the more recent provisions in Resolution No. 61, taking into the account the provisions in the above-mentioned Administrative Instructions and the proposal of the Russian Federation (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/66, para. 28). The first draft of the revised resolution will be considered by SC.3/WP.3 at its thirty-fifth session in June 2009.

(b) Election of officers

44. The Working Party may wish to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for its fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions in 2009 and 2010.

(c) Tentative list of meetings for 2009

45. The Working Party may wish to approve the following tentative list of meetings of Working Parties SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3 for the year 2009:

11-13 February 2009	Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) (thirty-fourth session)
3-5 June 2009	Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) (thirty-fifth session)
14-16 October 2009	Working Party on Inland Transport (SC.3) (fifty-third session)

Item 16. Adoption of the report

46. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt a list of decisions taken at its fifty-second session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.
