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Working Party on Inland Water Transport

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

Forty-sixth session

Geneva, 18–20 February 2015

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for pan-European River Information Services (RIS)

Proposal for an update of Resolution No. 48 Revision 2: Recommendation on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS)

Transmitted by the Inland ECDIS Expert Group

The Inland ECDIS expert group would like to inform SC.3/WP.3 of the preparation of an up-date of the Inland ECDIS standard. This update is going to deal with three major topics:

1. Amendment of the Appendix Product Specification for Inland ENC's including the Feature Catalogue for Inland ENC's and the Encoding Guide for Inland ENC's

These amendments are necessary to allow the authorities to include certain objects in the electronic charts which are not covered by the current version of the standard (e.g. power supply stations, water intake structures, retractable bridges and the new notice marks of CEVNI rev. 5).

2. Introduction of a Product Specification for bathymetric Inland ENC's

The production of updates of the depth information in Inland ENC's is requiring a lot of resources and time. The introduction of a Product Specification for bathymetric Inland ENC's would provide a possibility to produce and publish updates of depth information with less resources and much faster. The bathymetric Inland ENC's have already been tested in the Research and Development Project "IRIS Europe 3". The chart producing authorities as well as the Inland ECDIS application providers and the skippers are interested in this possibility.

3. Introduction of minimum requirements for Inland ECDIS in Information Mode

The Inland ECDIS standard is containing minimum requirements for Inland ECDIS applications in Navigation Mode, while it is containing recommendations only for Inland ECDIS equipment in Information Mode. All the countries participating in the Inland ECDIS expert group agreed now to introduce minimum requirements for

Information Mode. This would provide a legal basis for the introduction of Inland ECDIS carriage requirements on certain waterway sections in the future.

The Inland ECDIS expert group has scheduled an extraordinary meeting to be able to finalize the proposals for these updates by end of March 2015.

The Commission Regulation (EU) No 909/2013 of 10 September 2013 on the technical specifications for the electronic chart display and information system for inland navigation (Inland ECDIS) is referring to the Appendices of Resolution No. 48 Revision 2 of UNECE. The European Commission is planning to publish an update of all RIS related Regulations in the first quarter of 2016. As the Commission Regulation on inland ECDIS does not contain the Appendices themselves, but is only referring to Resolution No. 48, the update can only be published, if the update of Resolution No. 48 is adopted by SC.3 in November 2015.

The Inland ECDIS expert group is therefore kindly asking SC.3/WP.3 to put the update of Resolution No. 48 on the agenda of the SC.3/WP.3 meeting in June 2015 and the SC.3 meeting in November 2015. The Inland ECDIS expert group will provide the formal proposals for the SC.3/WP.3 meeting before the deadline for the transmission of documents.
