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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

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

Forty-eighth session

Geneva, 17–19 February 2016

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Follow-up to the UNECE White Paper on efficient and sustainable inland water transport in Europe: Discussion of a new strategy proposal

Further development of the strategy of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and the review of its Terms of Reference

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. This document is submitted in line with cluster 5: Inland Waterway Transport, paragraph 5.1 of the programme of work 2016–2017 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2015/17) to be adopted by the Inland Transport Committee at its seventy-eighth session (23–26 February 2016).
2. The Working Party on Inland Water Transport (hereafter SC.3, or the Working Party) at its fifty-ninth session initiated the discussion of its strategy, goals and tasks based on the document for consultations prepared by the secretariat and disseminated among the participants of the session. SC.3 agreed that the strategy should be further developed with due regard to the positions of UNECE member States. Recommendations of River Commissions and other stakeholders are also welcome in this process. To this end the Working Party invited the delegations to send their comments to the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/201, para. 17).
3. The document for consultations included a brief overview of activities of SC.3 and its subsidiary bodies since 1956, the main results and strategic documents, transport strategies in the UNECE region, current trends in the inland water transport sector in other regions of the world, involvement of SC.3 in the implementation of the Sustainable

Development Goals. Based on the outcome of the analysis, further activities of the Working Party were proposed in line with recommendations of the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Water Transport in Europe and the Terms of Reference of the Working Party.

II. Comments so far received on the strategic directions of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport

4. In addition to the opinions expressed at the fifty-ninth session of the Working Party, the secretariat received observations from the Government of Germany, the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine and the European Boating Association. The text of observations is issued in the Informal document SC.3/WP.3 No. 9 (2016).

5. Member States are encouraged to send their proposals on further development of the strategy and the Terms of Reference of SC.3. River Commissions and other interested organizations are invited to do the same.

III. Next steps

6. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) may wish to continue the discussion and give recommendations to SC.3 regarding its activities. SC.3/WP.3 may wish also to consider future priorities.
