



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
3 June 2022  
English  
Original: English, French and  
Russian

---

## 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

###### Sixty-first session

Geneva, 29 June–1 July 2022

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

###### Glossary of terms and definitions related to inland water transport

## General Terminology and Terms Related to Inland Waterway Infrastructure

### Note by the secretariat

#### Mandate

1. This document is submitted in line with the Proposed Programme Budget for 2022, part V, Regional cooperation for development, section 20, Economic Development in Europe, Programme 17, Economic Development in Europe (A/76/6 (Sect. 20), paragraph 20.76).
2. Following the decision taken at its sixtieth session, the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) may wish to finalize the general terminology and terms related to inland waterway infrastructure based on the drafts contained in annexes I and II to the present document. SC.3/WP.3 may wish to transmit the finalized draft to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport.

## Annex I

## Glossary of Terms and Definitions Related to Inland Water Transport, Part I “General Terms”

<i>No.</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
1	Administration	The Administration of the country in which the vessel is registered, or which issues the ship’s certificate.	(1)
2	Basin Administration	The national or international organization that is competent to decide regulations on waterways within a geographical area.	(1)
3	Boatmaster (shipmaster, skipper)	The person on board of the [ship] [vessel] being in command and having the authority to take all decisions pertaining to navigation and [ship] [vessel] management [and having the necessary qualifications] [holding a valid boatmaster’s certificate].	(2) and (3)
4	Competent authority	Authority or authorities or any other body or bodies designated as such in each State and in each specific case in accordance with domestic law.	(4)
5	Fluvio-maritime vessel (sea-river vessel, river-sea vessel)	[Any inland waterway vessel designed and authorized to operate also as a sea going vessel.]	(5)
6	Geographical information system (GIS)	[A vessel intended for navigation on inland waterways and [suitable] [authorized] for restricted navigation at sea.] Data management system utilizing a software package which incorporates the superimposition of different levels of geographical characteristics in the form of maps related to data tables and models sets.	(1) (6)
7	Helmsman (conning skipper, navigating skipper)	The person who navigates the vessel according to the voyage plan instructions of the shipmaster.	(2)
8	Inland waterway vessel (inland waterways vessel)	A vessel intended solely or mainly for navigation on inland waterways.  [A floating craft designed for the carriage of goods, public transport of passengers or specially fitted out for a specific commercial duty which navigates predominantly in navigable inland waterways or in waters within, or closely adjacent to sheltered waters or areas where port regulations apply.]	(1), (7) (5)
9	Passenger	Any person who, in the performance of a contract of carriage made by him or on his behalf, is carried either for reward or free of charge by a carrier.  Any person who makes a journey on board a passenger vessel, paying a fare or being granted a free passenger ticket. Vessel’s crew and other persons assigned to this vessel are not regarded as passengers.	(8) (9)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
	Inland waterways passenger	Any person who makes a journey on board of an inland waterway vessel. Service staff assigned to inland waterway vessels are not regarded as passengers.	(5)
10	Persons with reduced mobility	Persons facing particular problems when using public transport, such as the elderly and the handicapped and persons with sensory disabilities, persons in wheelchairs, pregnant women and persons accompanying young children.	(1), (7)
11	Riparian Parties	The parties bordering the same transboundary waters.	(10)
12	Transboundary waters	Any surface or ground waters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between two or more States; wherever transboundary waters flow directly into the sea, these transboundary waters end at a straight line across their respective mouths between points on the low-water line of their banks.	(10)
13	Waterway	[Any inland water open to navigation.]	(3)
		[River, canal, lake or other stretch of water which by natural or man-made features is suitable for navigation.]	(5)
14	Waterways of a maritime character	Waterways designated by the declaring country as suitable for navigation primarily by sea-river vessels.	(5)

## References

- (1) Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels, annex to resolution No. 61, second revision (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Rev.2).
- (2) International Standard for Tracking and Tracing on Inland Waterways (VTT), annex to resolution No. 63, second revision (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/176/Rev.2).
- (3) European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI), annex to resolution No. 24, revision 6 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.6).
- (4) Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN), 2021.
- (5) UNECE, Eurostat, ITF, Glossary for Transport Statistics, fifth edition, 2019.
- (6) WMO, UNESCO, International Glossary of Hydrology, third edition, 2012.
- (7) European Standard laying down Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation vessels (ES-TRIN), edition 2021/1.
- (8) Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Inland Waterway (CVN).
- (9) Danube Commission, Glossary of the Danube navigation, 2015.
- (10) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

## Annex II

### Glossary of Terms and Definitions Related to Inland Water Transport, Part II “Waterway Infrastructure”

<i>No.</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
1	Barrage	Structure across a stream, equipped with a series of gates or other mechanisms which control the water-surface level upstream to regulate the flow or to divert water supplies into another watercourse.	(1)
2	Basic bottleneck	Section of an E waterway whose parameters, at the present time, are not in conformity with the requirements applicable to inland waterways of international importance in accordance with the classification of European inland waterways of 1992 (class IV).	(2)
3	Boot basin (haven, harbour)	A small port basin, usually with a narrow entrance, located inside the harbour.	(3)
4	Bottleneck	Section of the E waterway network which has parameter values being substantially lower than target.	(2)
5	Breakwater	Hydraulic structure providing protection to port or coastal waters from waves, deposits and ice. Depending on the facilities protected, breakwaters can be subdivided into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Port (external), separating port basin from the water body;</li> <li>(b) Internal (groynes), dividing a basin into smaller areas.</li> </ul>	(3)
6	Dam	Water retaining structure partitioning off the waterway and its valley to store water or to raise the water level.	(1) and (3)
7	Crest	Top of a hydraulic structure (dam, levee, spillway or weir) to which water must rise before passing over the structure.	(1)
8	Deepening dredging	Periodic dredging to maintain specified parameters in approach channels.	(3)
9	Dredged material	Material excavated from the river bed.	(4)
10	Dredging	Work to deepen, expand or align existing and create new navigation channels.	(3)
11	Dyke (dike)	Hydraulic structure in the form of an embankment designed to protect against flooding, to restrict artificial water bodies and watercourses or to guide diverted water flows.	(3)
12	Waterways of international importance (E waterways)	Inland waterways and coastal routes used by sea-river vessels, which are included in the E waterway network in accordance with the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN), annex I.	(5)
13	Inland navigation ports of international importance (E ports)	Ports situated on the waterways of international importance in accordance with the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN), annexes II and III.	(5)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
14	Engineering works on inland waterways	Dredging, remedial work, sweeping, maintenance dredging, hydrographic surveys and maintenance of navigational equipment.	(3)
15	Floating jetty	Berthed vessel or floating structure fixed to the shore or in the roadstead of an inland waterway, designed for mooring and berthing of vessels and manufacturing operations.	(3)
16	Hydraulic complex	A set of hydraulic structures all at the same location and used for the same purpose.	(3)
17	Hydraulic structure (engineering structure, permanent structure)	Engineering structure designed to make use of water resources and to control the harmful effects of the water.	(3)
18	Hydroelectric power plant	A set of hydraulic structures and equipment used to convert the energy potential of a watercourse into electrical power.	(3)
19	Impoundment	Body of water formed by collecting water, as by a dam.	(1)
20	Inclined plane (water slope)	Engineering structure for transporting vessels between water at two different elevations (levels) by means of caissons, cradles, slings or water slopes.	(3)
21	Inner harbour	The innermost landward part of a harbour which is the area which affords the maximum protection from the elements and includes the facilities accommodating the ships, berths, quayside, etc.	(3)
22	Infrastructure providing access to ports	Fairways and facilities, devices and installations associated with their functioning, leading to each seaport and located within the area of a seaport. These include port entrance channels, fairways, anchorages, turning basins and vessel traffic services (VTS).	(3)
23	Inland waterway port	An area of land and water made up of such infrastructure and equipment so as to permit, principally, the reception of waterborne vessels, their loading and unloading, the storage of goods, the receipt and delivery of those goods and the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers, crew and other persons and any other infrastructure necessary for transport operators within the port area.	(6)
24	Inner approach channel	Hydraulic structure, a natural or artificial waterway located within a port, designed to allow vessels to approach or depart from quays and to manoeuvre within [sea]port waters. Some ports have loading/unloading and parking quays along channels.	(3)
25	Internavigational period	The period during which inland waterways are closed to navigation.	(3)
26	Jetty	Wharf structure standing proud from the shore in the port waters and allowing ships to berth on at least two sides.	(3)
27	Levee (bund, dike, dyke, embankment)	[Work] hydraulic structure used to confine streamflow within a specified reach or to prevent flooding due to waves or tides.	(1)
28	Lock (navigable lock)	[An enclosure in an inland waterway with gates at each end to enable the water level to be raised or lowered to allow vessels to pass through.]	(6)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
		[Navigable hydraulic structure for the movement of vessels and floating objects from an area of water at one level to an area of water at a different level.]	(3)
29	Lock chamber	Structural part of a navigable lock, surrounded by lock walls, lock bottom and upper, lower and intermediate gates for the vertical movement of vessels and floating objects by means of filling the chamber with water or emptying it.	(3)
30	Gate of a lock (lock gate)	Movable enclosing structures located at both ends of the lock chamber, which allow the entry and exit of vessels and seal the chamber during lockage.	(3)
31	Maintenance dredging	Work to remove obstacles in the fairway for the purpose of navigation.	(3)
32	Missing link	Part of the future network of inland waterways of international importance which does not exist at present.	(2)
33	Mooring place (landing place)	A place solely for vessels to embark or disembark passengers, not part of an inland port.	(6)
34	Navigable canal	Waterway built primarily for navigation.	(6)
35	Navigable hydraulic structure (permanent structure, engineering structure)	Hydraulic structure on a waterway allowing navigation designed to comply with set fairway parameters and allow the passage of vessels, or a set of such structures.	(3)
36	Navigable pass	Navigable hydraulic structure allowing passage of vessels through a hydraulic complex.	(3)
37	Navigational season (navigational period)	The period during which the inland waterways are open for navigation.	(3)
38	Navigational off season (navigational off-season)	The period between two navigation seasons, during which inland waterways are closed to navigation.	(3)
39	Network of inland waterways of international importance (E waterway network)	Consists of inland waterways and coastal routes used by sea-river vessels as well as of ports of international importance situated on these waterways and routes, as described in annexes I and II to the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN).	(5)
40	Outer harbour	1. Area of water within the port adjacent to the roadstead and the entrance to the port, separated from the port by breakwaters. Used for performing manoeuvres by entering and exiting vessels, it is also the area where waves act differently and their height and influence becomes much less severe.  2. (Lock basin) Protected water area of the navigable waterway, which is the direct prolongation of the lock chamber. The outer harbour serves to facilitate locking conditions and enables mooring and waiting to lock.	(3)  (7)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Source</i>
41	Passenger port	A port with facilities to embark and disembark passengers. Such ports may also provide services such as water and electricity supply, clearance of waste etc.	(6)
42	Port basin	Area of water adjacent to the shoreline surrounded by quays or other port structures, maintained at the required depth level, by which vessels are berthed and their cargo is exchanged.	(3)
43	Public mooring place	An arranged and equipped place on the waterway, along the shore or next to a floating object that enables vessels to stay outside the fairway to meet the required compliance with resting times of crew members; in case of emergencies and accidents; for the execution of small-scale repairs; for crew changes.	(3)
44	Reservoir	An artificial water body formed of a water retaining structure on a watercourse for water storage and flow regulation.	(3)
45	Ro-Ro berth	A location at which a Ro-Ro vessel can berth and load and unload motor vehicles and other mobile Ro-Ro units via ramps from ship to shore and vice versa.	(6)
46	Ship lift (boat lift, lift lock)	[A machine] Engineering structure for transporting vessels between water at two different elevations.	(6)
47	Strategic bottleneck	Section of an E waterway which has parameter values satisfying the basic requirements of class IV but which, nevertheless, ought to be modernized in order to improve the structure of the network or to increase the economic capacity of inland navigation traffic being substantially lower than target requirements.	(2)
48	Sweeping	Work to locate and remove underwater obstructions to navigation.	(3)
49	Turning basin (Manoeuvring basin)	1. A basin located between docks and port channels or fairways, with special provisions for the safe performance of rotating manoeuvres of ships to allow them to enter port channels, change course or align in port with the use of their own thrusters or with the help of tugboats.  2. Expansion of the canal for turning of vessels.	(3)  (8)
50	Wharf (wharf structure)	Hydraulic structure with devices for the safe approach of vessels and used for the safe berthing, loading, unloading and servicing of vessels and the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers.	(3)
51	Winter harbour	Part of a surface water body and (or) set of structures set up and equipped for the repair, berthing or technical inspection of vessels and floating objects.	(3)
52	Wintering	Temporary laying up a vessel during the navigational off-season. The vessel is moored at the equipped berth or in a specially designated place (a winter harbour or a winter shelter).	(3)
53	Winter shelter	Natural or artificial basin designed for winter mooring and repair of vessels.	(3)

## References

- (1) WMO, UNESCO, International Glossary of Hydrology, third edition, 2012.
  - (2) Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (“Blue Book”), third revision (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.3).
  - (3) Terminology of the Group of Experts on Benchmarking Transport Infrastructure Construction Costs (WP.5/GE.4) and national standards of member States (see ECE/TRANS/WP.5/GE.4/2018/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2018/15-ECE/TRANS/WP.5/2018/5, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2019/24, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2020/14, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/118).
  - (4) Danube STREAM project consortium, Basic Danube Glossary, 2019.
  - (5) The European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN).
  - (6) UNECE, Eurostat, ITF, Glossary for Transport Statistics, fifth edition, 2019.
  - (7) Danube Commission, Glossary of the Danube navigation, 2015.
  - (8) State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine, Navigational and Hydrographic Glossary, 2008.
-