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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee**

26 July 2022

**Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

English

**Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (ADN Safety Committee)****Fortieth session**

Geneva, 22-26 August 2022

Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN): matters related to classification societies**

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**Proposal for establishment of a Technical Working Group****Transmitted by the Informal Group of Recommended ADN Classification Societies****Introduction**

1. In ADN 1.15.4 obligations for recommended classification societies are laid down. One of these obligations is:

"They shall exchange experiences in joint meetings at least once a year. They shall report annually to the Safety Committee. The secretariat of the Safety Committee shall be informed of those meetings. The opportunity will be given to Contracting Parties to attend the meetings as observers."

2. Since approximately 10 years the recommended classification societies organise these meetings twice a year and reports have been sent to the secretariat of the Safety Committee. During this period always observers from one or more of the Contracting Parties have been present at the meetings.

3. Also during this period it has become more or less common practice that technical matters discussed during the Safety Committee meetings were addressed to the recommended classification societies for further discussion in their meetings. By addressing technical matters to be discussed at the meetings of the recommended classification societies it came to the situation that other Contracting Parties or organisations could not be involved in these technical discussions although they can certainly make important contributions to the discussion.

4. The recommended classification societies are of the opinion that their meetings requested in ADN 1.15.4 aren't really meant for discussing fundamental or extensive technical matters on request of the Safety Committee.

## Proposal

5. To guarantee that technical discussions can be held with broader technical knowledge we propose to establish a "Technical Working Group" to discuss technical matters raised by the Safety Committee. In this working group representatives of Contracting Parties and organisations present in the ADN Safety Committee could be present. Of course, also the recommended classification societies will participate to share their technical expertise. The organisation of such a working group could be similar to the "Working Group on Substances" which is contributing in a very constructive way to the Safety Committee already for many years.

6. By establishing such a working group the meetings of the recommended classification societies could be more efficient and like what they are meant to be according to ADN 1.15.4.

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