



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Eighty-fifth session**

Geneva, 21-24 February 2023

Item 7 (u) of the provisional agenda

**Strategic questions of a horizontal and
cross-sectoral policy or regulatory nature:
Inland water transport****Draft Resolution of the Inland Transport Committee on
Facilitating the Development of Container Transport on
Inland Waterways****Note by the secretariat****Mandate**

1. At its sixty-first session, the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) asked the secretariat to prepare a draft resolution for the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) on facilitating the development of container transport on inland waterways for consideration by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) and the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) at the joint SC.3/WP.24 event on developing container transport on inland waterways at the sixty-sixth session of SC.3.
2. The annex to this document contains a draft ITC resolution aimed at:
 - Supporting the development of transport of loading units such as containers or swap bodies on inland waterways
 - Facilitating integration of inland water transport into multimodal transport and logistics chains
 - Increasing the number of contracting parties to the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance and the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations and facilitating alignment between the two legal instruments.
3. Both Working Parties agreed to the text of the Draft Resolution contained in the Annex and requested that it be transmitted to the ITC for adoption at its eighty-fifth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/151, paragraph 48 and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/217, paragraphs 46 and 47).¹

¹ Reproduced and technically adjusted from ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2022/2-ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2022/15



4. The Inland Transport Committee is **invited to consider adopting** the draft Resolution entitled “Facilitating the Development of Container Transport on Inland Waterways”, as contained in the Annex to this document.

Annex

Draft resolution “Facilitating the Development of Container Transport on Inland Waterways”

Resolution No. ...

(adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on ...)

The Inland Transport Committee,

Recalling its role stipulated in the Strategy until 2030 in serving as the United Nations Platform for promoting sustainable regional and interregional inland transport connectivity and mobility, and within this role, emphasizing the work on promoting sustainable regional and interregional inland transport connectivity and mobility,

Being aware of the growth of container market in the international transport of goods to support the international trade,

Bearing in mind the overall objective to develop efficient, sustainable and flexible transport systems, which meet the economic, social, environmental and safety requirements of member States of the Economic Commission for Europe and to increase the interoperability of inland transport systems and their integration in multimodal transport and the logistics chains,

Acknowledging the important contribution of intermodal transport in making the freight sector more sustainable and, in this regard, recognizing the need for increasing the market share of container transport in the freight sector,

Emphasizing the importance of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance, the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations and the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations as well as the role these legal instruments play in making international inland transport more efficient and attractive to customers in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Conscious of the benefits of inland water transport in terms of safety, energy and cost efficiency, low emissions and lack of congestion, as a significant part of a balanced transport system, especially its contribution to reducing transport and logistics costs,

Recognizing the need for further development of a network of inland waterways of importance for international combined transport as well as for terminals in ports in support of intermodal transport,

Conscious of still untapped potential of container transport on inland waterways and coastal routes for the operationalization of Euro-Asian transport corridors,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made by Governments in implementing the Ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting” (18 April 2018, Wrocław, Poland),

Appreciating the work of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport in promoting inland water transport and supporting the development of the E Waterway Network,

Appreciating also the work of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics in promoting intermodal transport,

Recalling its resolution No. 265 “Facilitating the Development of Inland Water Transport”, adopted at its eighty-first session on 22 February 2019,

Recalling also its resolution No. 268 on strengthening intermodal freight transport, adopted at its eighty-third session on 25 February 2021,

Acknowledging the role of modern technologies, innovations, digitalization in ensuring safety, increased logistics integration, improved environmental performance of the transport sector and responding to climate change,

1. *Desires* to facilitate the development of intermodal transport on inland waterways in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe, and in doing so:

2. *Invites* the Contracting Parties to the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance to accede to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations and to its Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways, if they have not done so yet,

3. *Encourages* the Contracting Parties to the above-mentioned legal instruments to strengthen the implementation of these instruments and, in doing so, to update as necessary the coordinated international and national action plans for the development and operation of a network of inland waterways of importance for international combined transport as well as for terminals in ports and put them in operation through national investment programmes,

4. *Requests* the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics to consider establishing the joint management of the above-mentioned legal instruments by their Contracting Parties where relevant,

5. *Invites* member States to untap the potential for transport of containers on inland waterways, in particular, as part of operationalization of Euro-Asian transport links,

6. *Proposes* that Governments of interested member States of the Economic Commission for Europe work together supported by the Working Parties on Intermodal Transport and Logistics and Inland Water Transport to carry out a feasibility study for enhancing container transport on inland waterways along the Euro-Asian transport links,

7. *Requests* the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics with support of the secretariat to report progress on the above-mentioned issues after five years.
