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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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)

Forty-fourth session

Geneva, 26-30 August 2024

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Any other business

Establishing a correspondence group on the subject of "tank washing"

Submitted by the European Barge Union and the European Skippers Organization (EBU/ESO) *, **

Introduction

1. At the forty-third session of the ADN Safety Committee, significant changes were made to Chapter 7.2.4.22.2 "Opening of cargo tank openings" for ADN 2025. The fundamental revision of some of the oldest sections of the ADN was necessary to take sufficient consideration of the current needs and requirements of carriers, fillers and unloaders and to create practical regulations that ensure the safety of all parties involved.
2. Among other improvements, the chapter "Opening of cargo tank openings" has been expanded to include further on-board procedures that make opening necessary.
3. These measures also cover the measure of tank washing, which was included in the new regulations but not yet specified in detail. EBU/ESO were explicitly requested by the ADN Safety Committee to describe the tank washing process and to make suggestions for regulations for ADN 2027.
4. EBU/ESO do indeed recognize the unfortunate situation that there is currently a regulatory gap in the ADN with regard to tank washing, a regularly essential process. Although every tank washing procedure always takes place in compliance with the general (explosion) safety regulations and the health and safety of all parties involved, the procedure varies depending on the construction and technical equipment of the tanker vessel. Therefore,

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** A/78/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.5

it would be desirable to have regulations in the ADN that reflect as many safe solutions as possible in practice.

5. With the objective of an efficient elaboration of concrete draft proposals for the ADN 2027 and an intensive exchange with the delegations of the ADN Safety Committee already prior to the submission of proposals to the UNECE Secretariat, EBU/ESO would like to ask the ADN Safety Committee to discuss the formation of a correspondence group on the subject of "tank washing" and, if approved, to convene such a group at the forty-fourth session. If desired, EBU/ESO will gladly take over the leadership and organization of this correspondence group.

6. The work of the correspondence group could be taken up on the basis of initial proposals from EBU/ESO on a new definition in Chapter 1.2.1 of ADN, the specification of responsibilities in Chapter 1.4 of ADN and regulations for a safe tank washing process in Chapter 7.2 of ADN.

Proposal

7. EBU/ESO ask the ADN Safety Committee to discuss the formation of a correspondence group on the subject of "tank washing" and to set up such a group if the outcome of the discussion is positive.
