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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 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN): interpretation of the Regulations annexed to ADN

Students candidates for ADN examination with the age of less than 18 years

Transmitted by the Government of Belgium* **

Introduction and problem description

1. According to subsection 8.2.1.1 of the Regulations annexed to the ADN, an expert shall not be less than 18 years of age. The competent authority received from the Antwerp School for Navigation (GO! De Scheepvaartschool-Cenflumarin) a question concerning the examination of some of their students for ADN expert, while the students haven't reached the age of 18 years. The course for ADN expert is a module in the last year of the secondary schooling where some of the better students are working hard to acquire the knowledge of the ADN. The students have reached at least the age of 17. The competent authority has refused the candidates not having reached the age of 18 years because of the above mentioned subsection and because of the responsibilities associated with the ADN expert's duties.

Interpretation

2. The Belgian delegation is of the opinion that the age of 18 should be reached on the day that the candidate receives the certificate which proves his/her knowledge of the ADN. The expert shall not be less than 18 years of age and as long as the certificate has not been issued

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



to the candidate, he/she cannot proof his/her knowledge and therefore he/she is not yet an expert.

3. While there are no other provisions concerning the age of the candidates in relation with following a course or having an examination, the Belgian delegation is of the opinion that an examination of a 17 year old candidate can be accepted. The certificate can only be issued at the age of 18 or older.

4. Since the shipping industry is struggling with the availability of candidates, this interpretation would help inflow. Moreover, it benefits the morale of such students who have worked hard to pass the examination as opposed to being told that they have been refused admission to the examination.

Justification

5. The Belgian delegation also refers to the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 8: *Decent work and economic growth*. Herewith, a safer and more secure working environment will be achieved by supporting green jobs.

Action to be taken

6. The ADN Safety Committee is invited to consider the interpretation in paragraph 2 above, and to take action as it deems appropriate.
