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Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Inland Waterway Statistics

Recommendations for the E Waterway Traffic Census 2025

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. The present document is submitted in accordance with the proposed programme budget for 2024, part V (Regional cooperation for development), section 20 (Economic development in Europe), programme 17 (Economic development in Europe) (A/78/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.5).
2. At its sixty-fifth session, the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation agreed on the proposal for the E waterway traffic census (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2024/15) and asked the secretariat to prepare recommendations for countries conducting a census for the 2025 round for the fifty-eighth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3).
3. The present document contains the draft recommendations to governments on the 2025 E waterway traffic census, which, for the first time, will include inland waterways alongside the established five-yearly censuses of road and rail traffic data. SC.3 may wish to consider the draft and provide further guidance to the secretariat.

II. Coverage

4. The 2025 E waterway traffic census will cover the inland waterway network consisting of:
 - (a) Waterways that are included in annex 1 of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) and its amendments which have come into force before 2025;¹

¹ <https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2019/sc3/ECE-TRANS-120r4efr.pdf>.



(b) In the European Union countries, waterways of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) (Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network).²

5. Where an E waterway is not open to traffic (temporarily not available for navigation, has not yet been built, or for other reasons), the census could, if possible, be taken on the waterway(s) used by the traffic which would otherwise use this E waterway.

III. Purpose

6. The purpose of the E waterway traffic census is to collect and regularly (every five years) update the data for improving and developing the E waterway network in conformity with the standards set out in annex III of AGN, in particular, for:

- Facilitating international traffic of goods and passenger by inland waterways
- Measuring the performance of the E waterway network
- Enabling better integration of traffic by inland waterways in the planning processes, both at the national and international level.

7. Internationally comparable data on main international waterways are of major and increasing importance in Europe, given the growing volume of international and transit traffic.

8. Every effort should be made within the framework of the 2025 E waterway traffic census to arrive at data which are as comparable as possible at the international level and respond to new data requirements and changes in traffic patterns. Continuous efforts are, therefore, necessary to keep the scope and quality of the 2025 E waterway traffic census data in line with the user requirements.

9. In particular, waterway traffic data are to be collected on the E waterway network with the intention of facilitating the international organizing and planning of traffic of goods and passengers between member States of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

10. Information on the extent to which vessels use sections of E waterways would enable better integration of traffic by inland waterways in the planning processes of the country itself, allowing for adequate maintenance, renewal and improvement programmes and, at the international level, allowing for adequate maintenance, renewal and improvement programmes and facilitating member States' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This information would also contribute to finding solutions to the problems raised by traffic congestion and facilitate the study of environmental issues, safety and energy consumption, not least through identification of corridors where modal shift may be most beneficial.

IV. Scope

11. As E waterways can constitute a relatively limited part of a country's national inland waterway network, it is of particular interest to know the traffic rate on these sections as compared with the traffic borne by the whole of the network.

12. For this comparison, tonnes and tonne-kilometres are the key statistical measure to express the volume and development of traffic of goods by inland waterways in a country, along with the number of passengers and passenger-kilometres for traffic of passengers by inland waterways.

² Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013.

V. Data for the Census

13. Governments are encouraged to provide data in accordance with the following table for the census year 2025.

Year	E Waterway section	Origin					Destination					Movement status	Goods transported			Passengers transported		Notes
		E Port	Country/region	UN/LOCODE	Coordinates	River km	E Port	Country/region	UN/LOCODE	Coordinates	River km		Tonnes	Tonnes-km	Type of goods	Number	Passenger-km	
2020																		
2021																		
2022																		
2023																		
2024																		
2025																		

The requested information includes:

- E Waterway section: between the ports of origin and destination
- Origin: specified point of origin of a vessel
- Destination: specified point of destination of a vessel
- E Port: according to table 3 of the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.4)³
- Country/region: region can be defined in a manner similar to NUTS2,⁴ by using the administrative divisions of the country that are one level below the national government. These could be states, provinces, oblasts, or any equivalent, depending on the country's administrative structure
- UN/LOCODE: UN/LOCODE Code List by Country and Territory is available on the website of the Economic Commission for Europe at <https://unece.org/trade/cefact/unlocode-code-list-country-and-territory>
- Coordinates: geographical coordinates of the port that collects data
- Movement status: in transit or completed
- Goods transported: for each type of goods, the total goods transported on the national territory irrespective of the country of registration and the type of vessels
- Type of goods: to be chosen from the dropdown menu in the Excel sheet for the census prepared by the secretariat (see the annex)
- Passengers transported (number): number of passengers transported by (a) passenger vessels and (b) ferries
- Notes: any additional information.

³ <https://unece.org/transport/standards/transport/inventory-main-standards-and-parameters-e-waterway-network-blue-book>.

⁴ NUTS (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics): geographical nomenclature established by Eurostat to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the European Union. More terms and definitions related to inland waterways statistics can be found in the Glossary for Inland Water Transport (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/218).

14. Inland waterway transport concerns any movement of goods using inland waterway vessels, which is undertaken wholly or partially in navigable inland waterways. The movement of goods using seagoing vessels undertaken wholly in navigable inland waterways are considered as inland waterway transport.

15. The following vessel types fall outside the scope of the census:

- Vessels of less than 50 deadweight tonnes
- Vessels used solely for non-commercial purposes by port administration and public authorities
- Vessels used solely for bunkering storage
- Vessels not used for the carriage of goods such as fishery vessels, floating workshops, houseboats and pleasure craft.

16. Data transmission arrangements and codification of goods (annex I) for the European Union countries are similar to annex VII of Regulation (EC) 2018/974.⁵

VI. Compilation of the 2025 E Waterway Traffic Census

17. Governments are invited to provide the data, to the extent possible, not later than 30 November 2026. The data should include the map, if possible.

18. Data shall be transmitted in the Excel format based on the file to be distributed by the secretariat. Governments are also encouraged to share the shapefiles, if they are available. A shapefile is a common data format for storing spatial data in geographic information system (GIS) software. When sharing shapefiles with the secretariat, the coordinate system shall also be submitted, together with a short explanation on the columns' significance, allowing the identification of the E waterway number and any other field with useful information.

VII. Definitions

19. Definitions for terms used in the E waterway traffic census are available in the Glossary for Inland Water Transport (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/218) (Part X, Inland Waterways Statistics is in line with the Glossary for Transport Statistics, fifth edition, 2019). In particular, governments are encouraged to follow definitions II.I.05, II.W.01, III.C.13, III.C.14, III.P.02, III.P.04, III.U.01, IV.R.03, V.P.01, X.I.01, X.I.04, X.I.05, X.I.06 and X.N.04.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R0974>.

Annex

Types of Goods Transported by Inland Waterways

<i>Group</i>	<i>Type of goods</i>
01	Products of agriculture, hunting, and forestry; fish and other fishing products
02	Coal and lignite; crude petroleum and natural gas
03	Metal ores and other mining and quarrying products; peat; uranium and thorium
04	Food products, beverages and tobacco
05	Textiles and textile products; leather and leather products
06	Wood and products of wood and cork (except furniture); articles of straw and plaiting materials; pulp, paper and paper products; printed matter and recorded media
07	Coke and refined petroleum products
08	Chemicals, chemical products, and man-made fibres; rubber and plastic products; nuclear fuel
09	Other non-metallic mineral products
10	Basic metals; fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
11	Machinery and equipment n.e.c.; ⁶ office machinery and computers; electrical machinery and apparatus n.e.c.; radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus; medical, precision and optical instruments; watches and clocks
12	Transport equipment
13	Furniture; other manufactured goods n.e.c.
14	Secondary raw materials; municipal wastes and other wastes
15	Mail, parcels
16	Equipment and material utilised in the transport of goods
17	Goods moved in the course of household and office removals; baggage transported separately from passengers; motor vehicles being moved for repair; other non-market goods n.e.c.
18	Grouped goods: a mixture of types of goods which are transported together
19	Unidentifiable goods: goods which for any reason cannot be identified and therefore cannot be assigned to groups 01–16
20	Other goods n.e.c.

⁶ Not elsewhere classified.