

38. SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF TECHNICAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN INLAND NAVIGATION (UNECE – INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE)

The 38 session of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (UNECE – Inland Transport) was held from 16 to 18 February 2011 in Geneva which was attended by 27 representatives of 11 countries, as well as the representatives of International Sava River Basin Commission, Danube Commission and Mosel Commission.

The following agenda was proposed for the session:

1. Adoption of the agenda
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/75
2. Election of officers
3. Results of the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/187
4. Special consideration of additional proposal concerning the White Paper on efficient and sustainable inland water transport to be adopted at the 73th session of ITC
 - a) Importance and performance of inland water transport in the ECE region
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/1
 - b) Current state of the European network of inland waterways of international importance
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/2
 - c) Institutional and regulatory framework of inland navigation in Europe
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/3
5.
 - d) A pan-European vision for efficient and sustainable inland water transport
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/4
 - e) Implications for the work of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation
6. Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/184
7. European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI)
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.4 and Corr.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/5
8. Resolution No. 61
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Rev.1
 - a) Amendments to chapters 1 and 2 - Definitions
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2010/16 and Add.1
 - b) Special provisions for river-sea navigation vessels
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2010/6 and Add.1
 - c) Minimum technical requirements for computers installed on vessels
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2010/10
 - d) other amendments
9. Resolution No. 59
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/169, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/6
10. The Pan-European Rules on General Average and Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/7, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/8,
11. The recreational navigation
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the report

The provisional agenda mainly reflects the scope and the nature of the issues in the subject area of this Working Party, and taking note of the document proposals, and having heard the discussions and the comments by the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Working Party, as well as the observations of the delegations, the Working Party got a complete insight on the functioning and the decision making process used by this body.

It should be noted that the UNECE – Inland Transport Committee has a Working Party for carriage of dangerous goods - ADN, which work includes the aspects of carriage of dangerous goods by inland waterways.

At the end of the session the delegations were provided with a draft report of the session, for consideration and final approval. The text below contains the most relevant parts of the said report, while the full version is available in English.

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF TECHNICAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN INLAND NAVIGATION

I. Participants

The session was attended by delegates representing the following states: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine.

The session was also attended by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Mosel Commission, Danube Commission, Sava Commission, as well as the ntergovernmental organisation – European Barge Union.

II. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat.

III. Election of officers

Mr. Evgueniy Kormyshev (Russian Federation) was re-elected Chair of the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of SC.3/WP.3.

IV Results of the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport

The Working Party took note of the results of the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and, in particular, of the approval of the Resolution numbers 67-71, based on the proposals of the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-seventh session.

V Special editorial session on the White Paper on efficient and sustainable inland water transport in Europe

The Working Party reviewed the final draft of the White Paper on efficient and sustainable inland water transport

The Working Party took note of the editorial comments presented by Belgium, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine in the Informal document No. 9 SC.3/WP.3.

- (a) Chapter 1: Importance and performance of inland water transport in the ECE region:
The Working Party approved draft Chapter 1, as presented in the document No. ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/1, subject to the specific corrections.
- b) Chapter 2: Current state of the European network of inland waterways of international importance;
The Working Party approved the draft Chapter 2, as presented in the document No. ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/2, subject to the specific corrections.
- c) Chapter 3: Institutional and regulatory framework of inland navigation in Europe;
The Working Party approved the draft Chapter 3, as presented in the document No. ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/3, subject to the specific corrections.
- d) Chapter 4: A pan-European vision for efficient and sustainable inland water transport;
The Working Party approved the draft Chapter 4, as presented in the document No.

ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/4, subject to the specific corrections.

The Working Party asked the secretariat to forward the substantial comments to the draft, if any, to the Group of Volunteers and to prepare, in consultation with the group, an official proposal for the fifty-fifth session of SC.3.

The Working Party also took note of information provided by the secretariat on the results of consultations with the EC and with the Bureau of the ITC

The Working Party discussed the implication of the policy recommendations contained in Chapter IV of the White Paper for the future work of SC.3/WP.3, stressing the importance of reinforcing the coordination between the UNECE, EC, River Commissions and other institutions involved. In this context, the Working Party again emphasized the importance of an appropriate consultation mechanism between the UNECE and the European Commission to ensure that the UNECE member States are timely informed about the ongoing legislative initiatives and reforms in the EU.

The Working Party welcomed the secretariat proposal to organize a one-day expert meeting on inland waterway infrastructure development, in line with Policy Recommendation No.1 and in the light of the ongoing revision of the UNECE Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network ("Blue Book"). The meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place back-to-back with the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-ninth session.

The Working Party invited the delegations and the secretariat to propose follow-up actions for the remaining policy recommendations either for the thirty-ninth session of SC.3/WP.3 or at a later stage.

d) Follow-up to the White Paper: Implications for the work of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation.

As regards the Recommendation No. 3, subparagraph (c), SC.3/WP.3 continued its discussions on the possible UNECE role in the operation of a future pan-European hull/vessel database. The Working Party took note of the presentation by PLATINA on the latest development of the pilot European hull database.

The Working Party also took note of information provided by the secretariat on the results of consultations with the EC and with the Bureau of the ITC. The secretariat highlighted that there seemed to be a general consensus on the value added of the pan-European dimension of such a database. However, no decision has yet been taken on the future operator of the EU hull database nor on possible procedures and modalities to extend its scope to non-EU countries.

VI. Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates

On behalf of the delegation of the European Union (EU), the secretariat informed the Working Party that the revision of the EU Directive 96/50/EC on harmonizing the conditions for obtaining national boatmaster's certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway in the Community was in process, but no information could be circulated at the present time. The representative of the Danube Commission reported on the outcome of the last meeting of the DC Group of Volunteers on boatmasters' certificates. On 1-3 February 2011, the Group finalized the draft of the new DC recommendations on boatmaster certificates. He reported that the proposed recommendations were in line with the EU directive but that they also included provision on an additional type of boatmaster certificate which was necessary for specific navigation practices on the Danube.

The Working Party agreed to keep the item of mutual recognition of boatmaster' certificates on the agenda of its next session.

VII. European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI)

The Working Party was informed that the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the CEVNI Expert Group took place on 10 December 2010 and 15 February 2011, respectively.

The Working Party took note of the presentation prepared by the secretariat, in cooperation with the CEVNI Expert Group. The Working Party expressed its appreciation for this information on the use of CEVNI and its new Chapter 9. SC.3/WP.3 endorsed the proposed approach towards the current and

future work on CEVNI and, in particular, the following elements:

- a) Planned preparation of the new amended Chapter 9 based on the information received from the countries in response to the 2010 CEVNI questionnaire;
- b) Appeal to the Governments and River Commissions to harmonize as much as possible with CEVNI, revision four, and to reduce to the extent possible the existing deviations from CEVNI and additional requirements;
- c) Coordination between the future amendments of the River Commission regulations and future amendments of CEVNI,
- d) Continuation of work on ensuring consistency between the different linguistic versions of CEVNI and the preparation of CEVNI text in German.

The Working Party considered the new amendments to CEVNI, taking into account the comments of the Russian Federation presented in Informal document No. 8, as well as the additional comments from the CEVNI Expert Group.

With respect to the amendment to Article 1.08 proposed in paragraph 6 of ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/5, the Working Party agreed with the proposal of the Russian Federation to invite the Group of Volunteers on Resolution No. 61. to consider introducing the proposed text to the relevant article of Resolution No. 61. Furthermore, the Working Party invited the delegations, in time for the next SC.3/WP.3 session to express their position on whether this text should also be duplicated in Article 1.08 of CEVNI.

VIII. Resolution No. 61, "Recommendations on harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels"

The Working Party was informed by the secretariat that the first revised edition of Resolution No. 61. 61, incorporating Amendments Nos. 1-3 had been finalized. The printed copies should be available for the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-ninth session.

The Working Party considered the other amendments to Resolution No. 61 with due regard to the latest amendments to the EU Directive 2006/87/EC laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels and the relevant recommendations of the December 2010 meeting of the Group of Volunteers.

(a) Amendments to chapters 1 - 2, "Definitions"

The Working Party endorsed the recommendation by the Group of Volunteers in favour of a systematic approach towards revising the definitions in Chapter 1-2, in parallel with the revision of the relevant chapters of the resolution, such as Chapter 6, "Steering gear". SC.3/WP.3 welcomed the intention of the Group to prepare a proposal on the revised Chapter 1-2, taking into account the comments received from the delegations. The Working Party decided to keep this item on its agenda and invited the Group of Volunteers to submit their proposal to the secretariat.

(b) Special provisions applicable to river-sea navigation vessels

The Working Party was informed that the Group of Volunteers reviewed the draft Chapter 20B "Special provisions applicable to river-sea navigation vessels" and invited the Group of Volunteers to submit their proposal by 5 April 2011, so that the secretariat could prepare the draft proposal on Chapter 20B for the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-ninth session.

(c) Minimum technical requirements for computers installed on vessels

The Working Party was informed that at its last meeting, the Group of Volunteers elaborated a draft proposal on minimum technical requirements for computers installed on vessels. The text of the proposal was presented in the annex to the Informal document No. 6. The Working Party invited the delegations to submit their comments on the proposal by 15 March 2011 and asked the secretariat to prepare an official amendment proposal, based on the informal document and the input from the delegations, for the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-ninth session.

(d) Other amendments to Resolution No. 61

The Working Party discussed the additional amendment proposals submitted by the Russian Federation presented in Informal document No. 2. The Working Party adopted the conclusion of the Group of

Volunteers that there was no reason to elaborate special requirements for passenger vessels with a maximum length of 25 m and authorized to carry not more than 150 passengers, since the national and regional authorities have option to introduce derogations in this respect. The Working Party also supported the opinion of the Group of Volunteers that it would be useful to gather information concerning existing national and regional derogations from the Directive 2006/87. The Working Party asked the secretariat to contact the European Commission asking it to provide WP with that information.

The Working Party also supported the conclusion of the Group of Volunteers that there was no reason to transfer the requirements concerning people with reduced mobility which are already contained in Chapter 15, to a separate Chapter or document as this would affect the present harmonization with Directive 2006/87.

Finally, the Working Party endorsed the decision of the Group of Volunteers on Resolution No. 61 to elaborate amendment proposals to Chapter 17 "Specific requirements applicable to floating equipment" and Chapter 18 "Specific requirements applicable to worksite craft". The Working Group asked the Group to submit their proposals to that effect to one of its future sessions.

8. Resolution No. 59, "Guidelines for Waterway Signs and Markings"

The Working Party took note of the presentation by the International Sava River Basin Commission on the goal and the scope of the Resolution No. 59. The Working Party also noted the official amendment proposal presented in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/ WP.3/2011/6, as well as the proposed text of the draft revised resolution, published in Informal document No. 3 in English and Russian.

9. The Pan-European Rules on General Average and Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation.

The Working Party took note of the statement by Serbia and IVR in favour of establishing pan-European rules on General Average. The Working Party welcomed the idea of a pan-European norm in this important area and thanked Serbia and IVR for preparing the basis for the future discussion. The Working Party asked the delegations to carry out consultations with the relevant authorities in their countries on the proposed rules and the possible form of a SC.3 instrument in this respect, and submit their position by 31 March 2011.

The Working Party was informed of the progress in revising the 1988 Strasbourg Convention on Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation (CLNI), carried out by the CCNR.

10. Recreational navigation

The Working Party noted that, in accordance with its thirty-seventh session, the secretariat had started compiling information on the national legal acts governing navigation of recreational craft on the national waterways and on where these acts could be found. However, only few countries had provided this information at the current stage. The Working Party invited the delegations to submit this information by 31 March 2011 so that the secretariat could publish the preliminary results of this survey in time for the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-ninth session.

11. Other business

The Working Party took note of the proposal by the Russian Federation to elaborate recommendations on the Maritime Mobile Service identifiers, presented in Informal document No. 4. Taking into account the late submission of the proposal, SC.3/WP.3 invited the delegations to consider the proposed approach and submit their preliminary position by 31 March 2011, so that the secretariat could present an official proposal on this issue for the SC.3/WP.3 thirty-ninth session.

12. Adoption of the report

In accordance with established practice, the Working Party adopted the list of decisions taken at its thirty-ninth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.