

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

The 39th Session of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (UNECE – Inland Transport Committee) was held from 15 to 17 June 2011 in Geneva which was attended by representatives of 13 countries, as well as the representatives of International Sava River Basin Commission, Danube Commission and the Central Commission on the Navigation of the Rhine, as well as the delegation of EU.

The following agenda was proposed for the session:

1. Adoption of the agenda
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/77
2. Resolution No. 61
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Rev.1
 - a) Amendments to chapters 1 and 2 - Definitions
 - b) Special provisions for river-sea navigation vessels
 - c) Minimum technical requirements for computers installed on vessels
 - d) other amendments
3. Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates
4. Future cooperation on the European vessel database
5. European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI)
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.4 and Corr. 1
 - a) The draft plan for future work on CEVNI
 - b) Amendment proposals to be submitted to the 55th session of the Transport Committee
 - c) The new amendment proposals to CEVNI
6. Strategic development of inland waterway infrastructure
7. Resolution No. 59
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/6/Rev.1
8. Establishing of common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Services (RIS),
9. Resolution No. 48
10. Proposals to UNECE recommendations related to the Maritime Mobile Service identifiers
11. The Pan-European Rules on General Limitation of Liability in Inland Navigation
Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/7
12. The recreational navigation
13. Co-operation with the EU, River Commissions and other international organizations concerned with the inland navigation matters.
14. Other business
15. Adoption of the report

The proposed agenda basically defines the priority issues in the subject area of this Working Party. Taking note of the document proposals, and having heard the discussions conducted and the comments by the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Working Party, as well as the observations of the delegations, the Working Party underlined the necessity of accelerating the further work on resolutions which were the issues discussed by this session. Having in mind an increasing interest in the work of this Working Party, and that the new member states are taking part in its work, it was found that the quality of delivered documents brought attention to the states and organisations concerned, therefore the delegations attending the session are called upon to more actively participate in addressing specific technical issues. The participating members are also called upon to enhance efficiency of the procedure for expressing their position on the issues transmitted to them, as well as to respond to requests to provide data concerning inland navigation and inland navigation vessels, in order to enable the secretariat to prepare proposals and other necessary documentation for the work of the Working Party in due time.

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.

Original: English
ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/CRP.2/Add.1

Economic Commission for Europe
Inland Transport Committee
Working Party on Inland Water Transport
Working Party on the Standardization of Technical
and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation
Thirty-ninth session

Geneva 15-17 June 2011

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

I. Adoption of the agenda

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

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

6. The Secretariat informed the Working Party that the first revised edition of Resolution No. 61 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Rev.1) would be published on the UNECE website by the end of June and would be available in hard copy for the fifty-fifth session of SC.3 to be held from 12 to 14 October 2011.

7. The Working Party took note of the results of the fourth meeting of the Group of Volunteer experts on Resolution No. 61 (hereafter, the Group of Volunteers), presented in Informal document No. 12.

A. Amendments to chapters 1 - 2, "Definitions"

8. The Working Party considered the proposal by the Group of Volunteer on amendments to Chapter 1-2 "Definitions" and other relevant section of the resolution, presented in Informal document No. 13. and noted that this proposal constituted a significant step towards harmonizing the definitions used in the resolutions and in the Directive 2006/87/EC. The Working Party invited the delegations to submit their comments on Informal document No. 13 . by 20 July 2011. 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. In addition, the Working Party invited the Group of Volunteers and the CEVNI Expert Group to cooperate on harmonizing the definitions used in Resolution No. 61. and in CEVNI.

B. Special provisions applicable to river-sea navigation vessels

9. The Working Party approved the draft Chapter 20B "Special provisions applicable to river-sea navigation vessels", finalized by the fourth meeting of the Group of Volunteers and presented in Informal document No. 14. In doing so, the Working Party emphasized the important role which could be played by such vessels in further development of inland water transport The Working Party asked the secretariat to submit an official proposal on draft Chapter 20B to the fifty-fifth session of SC.3.

Draft report of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation, Appendix

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

C. Minimum technical requirements for computers installed on vessels

10. The Working party considered the draft of the Minimum technical requirements for computers installed on vessels, together with the comments submitted by the delegations. Russian Federation stated that the comment by the delegation of the Great Britain (paragraph 4) was addressed by paragraph 7A-3.2 of the proposal. With respect to the comments by CCNR, presented in paragraphs 5-7, the Russian Federation explained that the values appearing in paragraph 7-3A.1 were based on the relevant rules of the Russian River Register and national standards used in the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation further clarified that that the rules in paragraphs 7-3A.2 to 7-3A.10 also concerned the computers used as part of radar equipment and that the proposed requirements were not below the existing specific requirements for radar, Inland AIS and Inland ECDIS equipment. Following further comments from CCNR and the ensuing discussion, the Working Party asked the Group of Volunteers to continue its work, if possible in cooperation with CCNR, on draft section 7.3A, in particular, by providing a definition of "navigation computer" and explaining the link between section 7.3A and Chapter 10 on Electrical Equipment. The Working Party asked the Group to submit a revised proposal on this issue to its next session to be held in February 2012.

D. Other amendments to Resolution No. 61

11. The Working Party approved the draft amendments to Chapter 6 on "Steering Gear", submitted by the Group of Volunteers in Informal document No. 15, noting that these amendments were a direct consequence of the amendments proposed to Chapter 1-2. The Working Party asked the secretariat to submit an official proposal on the revised Chapter 6 to the fifty-fifth session of SC.3.

12. The Working Party thanked the Group of Volunteers for their excellent work and expert contribution to the work of the session and invited the delegations to take an active part in this group and its next meeting from 6 to 9 September 2011 in Budapest.

III. Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates

13. The representative of the EU informed the Working Party that the process of the revision of the EU Directive 96/50/EC was at the stage of an impact assessment study, aimed at evaluating the need for the revision of the directive. Results of the assessment should be available in September 2011. The Working Party thanked the delegation of the EU for this information and emphasized the importance of receiving timely notification of the relevant development within the EU on the issues of common interest. The Working Party asked the secretariat to continue monitoring the issue and to attend the relevant meetings organized by EU.

14. SC.3/WP.3 took note of the initial proposal on the revision of Resolution No. 31 and the goals and scope of this revision. The Working Party observed that the introduction of several types of certificates proposed by Sava Commission, as well as serious amendments to the character of the Resolution and its mechanisms for recognition of the certificates deserved serious discussion and comprehensive consultations with stakeholders.

15. In this context, SC.3/WP.3 was informed about an informal meeting on 14 June 2011 between the European Commission and the secretariats of UNECE, CCNR, Danub Commission and Sava Commission on possible cooperation on the issue of boatmasters' certificates. The secretariat presented to the Working Party the following conclusions of the meeting:

a) The secretariats of River Commissions recognized the need for modernization of the existing regional and international instruments on boatmasters' certificates and on inland navigation profession, in general;

b) The participants considered that such a modernization process would require a regular cooperation mechanism (for example, a joint working group), where all River Commissions and their member States could participate on the equal footing;

c) The participants considered that this modernization process should be carried out with due regard and in close consultations with the European Commission and the relevant EU programmes under NAIADES Action Program;

d) A preliminary proposal aimed at establishing such a mechanism should be prepared by UNECE and River Commissions after consultations with their member States and other stakeholders.

III. Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates (continue)

16. Following an in-depth discussion, the Working Party concluded that revision of Resolution No. 31. and of the Directive should be carried out in close consultations and regular exchange of information between EU and UNECE. Therefore, the Working Party:

a) urged the EC to take due account of the relevant instruments of the UNECE and to keep UNECE informed about all developments related to the revision of the Directive.

b) asked the secretariat to circulate to the delegations a questionnaire on the future revision of Resolution No. 31, inviting them to report on the implementation of the Resolution in their country/river basin, to submit proposals for its future improvements and to comment on the preliminary proposal by the Sava Commission.

c) asked the secretariat to prepare a note on this issue for consideration by the fifty-fifth session of SC.3 based on the input from the delegations

d) decided to dedicate a part of its next session in February 2012 to an in-depth discussion of boatmasters' certificates and other closely linked issues.

17. The Working Party also took note of the presentation by EDINNA on the elaboration of standards of training and certification in inland navigation (STCIN), "Riverspeak" and use of simulators. CCNR informed the Working Party about their support to EDINNA's "Riverspeak" as part of their ongoing work on future means of regulating the use of the English language in the navigation on the Rhine.

IV. The future work on the European vessel/hull database

18. The Working Party took note of the information by PLATINA on the progress in the establishing the pilot European vessel/hull database, funded by the European Commission.

19. SC.3/WP.3 also took note of technical, operational and financial requirements which would need to be addressed should UNECE host the database in the future, described in the note by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/12). CCNR informed SC.3/WP.3 that the CCNR had taken note of the document, but could not express any approval to the proposal of hosting the database in UNECE, as that CCNR was also one of the candidates to be the database operator. The Working Party noted that the note by the secretariat did not constitute a position document and only contained factual information and description of possible policy options .of the Commission.

20. The Working Party thanked the secretariat for providing this information and asked him to transmit the note, incorporating the result of the SC.3/WP.3 discussions, comments by the delegations and further consultations with the European Commission, to the fifty-fifth session of SC.3 for further consideration.

V. European Code for Inland Waterways

21. In accordance with the proposed agenda, the Working Party considered the issues related to the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI)

A. The draft plan for future work on CEVNI

The Working Party considered the draft plan for future work on the Code prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the decision adopted at its thirty-eighth session.

B. Amendments to CEVNI for submission to the fifty-fifth session of SC.3

23. The Working Party considered the revised proposal on amendments to CEVNI and the following comments were made:

a) Approve the proposals presented in paragraphs 4, 6-9, 11-13 and 16, incorporating the modifications proposed by the secretariat in footnotes 2-3, and forward these proposals to the fifty-fifth session of SC.3.

b) Postpone the discussion on the proposal contained in paragraph 5 until this issue has been discussed by the

Group of Volunteers on Resolution No. 16.

C) Continue the discussions on a new Article 4.07 in the light of the additional comments by CCNR and the Russian Federation at the next SC.3/WP.3 session;

d) Approve the text proposed in paragraph 14, subject to the following correction, already agreed upon during the thirty-eighth session of SC.3/WP.3:

This rule applies, ~~in general~~ also on the waterways for which "downstream" and "upstream" are not defined

V. New amendment proposals to CEVNI

24. The Working Party considered the new amendment proposals to CEVNI, finalized by the CEVNI Expert Group, as well as the secretariat proposal to rectify an illustration of a yellow flashing light for marking of cross-overs in part III of Annex 8 of CEVNI. The Working Party approved the amendment proposals presented in paragraphs 5 and 7 of the document and asked the secretariat to submit them to the fifty-fifth session of SC.3.

25. The Working Party also took note of the preparatory works of the CEVNI Expert Group on "Prevention of Pollution of Water and Disposal of Waste Occurring on Board Vessels", taking into account the relevant provisions of the 1996 Convention on Collection, Retention and Disposal of Waste Generated during Navigation on the Rhine and Other Inland Waterways. The Working Party invited the CEVNI Expert Group to submit its proposal to its next session.

VI. Strategic development of inland waterway infrastructure

26. The Working Party held on 16 June 2011 an expert discussion on inland waterway infrastructure development. It took note of the following presentations:

a) "UNECE Inventory of main standards and parameters of the E-Waterway network"; (Blue Book); state of play and next steps", UNECE Transport Division;

b) "Inventory of Bottlenecks and Missing Links on the European Waterway Network as compiled within the framework of PLATINA";

a) "Assessing IW infrastructure projects in the Russian Federation", Ministry of Transport, the Russian Federation;

g) "Assessing IW infrastructure projects in the Republic of Belarus: restoration of the Dniepr-Oder-Vistula waterway", (the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva);

h) "Time to go digital? " Options for a new format of the Blue Book to facilitate planning and decision-making"

27. The Working Party:

a) Took note of the progress in the revision of the UNECE Blue Book, described by the UNECE secretariat.

b) Invited member States, which had not yet done so, to submit information on their inland waterways and ports of international importance to the secretariat so that the second revision of the Blue Book could be finalized in time for the SC.3 fifty-fifth session;

c) Agreed that the role of the UNECE Working Party on Inland Water Transport on dealing with infrastructure issues should be further discussed, and asked the secretariat to prepare an appropriate strategic note for the SC.3 fifty-fifth session.

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

28. The Working Party considered the revised amendment proposal to Resolution No. 59. SC reported that the revised proposal incorporated most of the comments received so far, but further work was needed to address

some remarks submitted by the Russian Federation and Serbia.

IX Establishing of common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Services (RIS) (item 8)

29. In accordance with the decision adopted at the 51 session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport, the Working Party considered the amendment proposals to the resolutions related to the RIS and their different components, based on the submissions by competent international expert groups.

VIII. Resolution No. 57, "Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services"

30. The Working Party took note of the information on the ongoing revision of the PIANC Guidelines on River Information Services (RIS), provided by the secretariat in cooperation with the Chair of PIANC Working Group.

31. The Working Party held preliminary discussions on the proposed amendments to Resolution, based on the comparison between Resolution No. 57. and the new PIANC guidelines. The Working Party asked the secretariat to prepare an official proposal on the revision of Resolution No. 57 for the fifty-fifth session of SC.3, based on the comments from the delegations and the discussions in SC.3/WP.3.

IX. Resolution No. 48, "Recommendation on electronic chart display and information system for inland navigation (Inland ECDIS)"

32. The Working Party was informed about the latest development of the Inland ECDIS standard, and the modifications to the first revised edition of Resolution No. 48.

33. The Working Party, in principle, welcomed the proposed amendments to Resolution No. 48, but it invited the delegations to submit their views on proposed amendments, specifying their position on the choice of the amendment procedure by 20 July 2011. The Working Party asked the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair of the group for ECDIS, to prepare an official proposal on the revision of Resolution No. 48, for the fortieth session of SC.3/WP.3, on the basis of the comments received from the delegations and the discussions in SC.3/WP.3.

X. Proposals on the UNECE recommendations on the Maritime Mobile Service identifiers

34. The Working Party took note of the proposal by the Russian Federation to elaborate special recommendations on the Maritime Mobile Service Identifiers and the comments submitted by the delegations and noted that no delegations had submitted serious objections to this proposal and invited the Russian Federation to submit the draft text of the recommendation for the fifty-fifth session of SC.3.

XI. Pan-European Rules on General Average in Inland Navigation

35. The Working Party was informed by the secretariat that due to the late and limited input received from the delegations the secretariat did not issue a revised proposal on pan-European rules on general average in Inland Navigation. The Working Party took note of the position of the Russia, which proposed to consider expanding the scope of the resolution based on the existing legislation of the Russian Federation. The Working Party welcomed the intention of Serbia to continue the work on the draft resolution and, to facilitate this work, asked the Russian Federation to submit a detailed proposal identifying which provisions from its national legislation could be added to the draft resolution.

XII. Recreational navigation

36. The Working Party took note of the preliminary results of the survey on the national legal acts governing navigation of recreational craft in the ECE region and invited the delegations, who had not yet done so, to submit this information to the secretariat.

37. The Working Party discussed the proposal by the secretariat to resume the work on a schematic map of the waterways used for recreational navigation and to establish Guidelines on the implementation of Resolution No. 40. The Working Party welcomed both proposals, but observed that the questions and answers on Resolution

No. 40 should be published as supplementary information and not as guidelines to the resolution. The Working Party asked the secretariat to submit an official proposal on these two activities to the fifty-fifth session of SC.3.

XIII. Cooperation with the European Union, River Commissions and other international organizations concerned with inland navigation matters

39. The Working Party observed that the informal contacts between the secretariat and the European Commission since the last session of resulted in the participation of a delegation of the EU in the thirty-ninth session of the Working Party. The Working Party welcomed this development and urged the delegation of the EU to take an active part in all its future sessions.

XIV. Other business

40. The Working Party expressed its high appreciation to Evgeniy Kormyshev who chaired SC.3/WP.3 and wished him all the best in his new position.

XV. Adoption of the report

41. 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.