

SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR TECHNICAL ISSUES OF THE DANUBE COMMISSION

The Working group for technical issues of the Danube Commission held its session from 12 to 14 April 2011 in Budapest.

The technical issues of relevance to the activities of the Authority for Determination of the Seaworthiness were set out in agenda items 1 (points 1.1 and 1.2), 2 and 4 (point 1.1).

As far as the agenda item 1, relating to the main provisions for navigation on the Danube is concerned, the Secretariat of the Danube Commission presented its information on the harmonization process of the rules for navigation on inland waterways, paying special attention to the application of the European code for inland waterways (CEVNI).

As regards the agenda item 2, related to the harmonization of technical regulations for inland waterways ships with the Directive 2006/87/EC and UNECE Resolutions Nos. 61 and 65, the model of additional requirements for passenger ships (Chapter 15), as well as a new Chapter for the carriage of persons with reduced mobility (Chapter 15V) were proposed. On the proposal made by Russia, the proposed requirements, are supplemented with the remark that a paragraph which imposes that the passenger ship shall be equipped with additional 10% life jackets, should be inserted. The remark of delegates from Austria and Germany was that this proposal does not fully comply with the European regulations, which led to the conclusion that additional consultations at the national level are required. A difference was evident between positions of the so-called German block countries and the other countries, especially as regards the strict adjustment to the EU technical requirements, which are directly taken from CCNR (Central Commission for the Navigation on Rhine).

The technical requirements as referred to in Chapter 15 are included in the existing Rules for the ability of inland waterways ships to carry passengers which will be amended and updated by Chapter 15 V, as well as in the part of less comprehensive technical requirements deriving from the requirements of UNECE Resolution No. 61. The Code intended to regulate this area should be adopted in the next period.

The Serbian representative – Mrs Ivana Kunc, Counsellor, made an interesting report set forth in the agenda item 4, point 1.1 on results of the Working party for technical issues as regards ADN, which was published in Geneva at the beginning of the year.

The publication of the ADN 2011 is already applicable and it may be ordered through the UNECE website.

The postponement of deadline for the use of single-hull tankers has not been announced yet, although there is an unofficial information that, due to the crisis, the deadline will be postponed for several years. The ADN certificates are drawn up following the uniform European model and they should be adopted as a ship document in the Republic of Serbia at the earliest possible time.