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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Inland Water Transport
(Forty-seventh session, 7-9 October 2003,
agenda item 11)

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004-2008
AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

Note by the secretariat

The text of the draft programme of work for 2004-2008, reproduced below, is based on the content of the programme of work approved by the Inland Transport Committee appearing in Addendum 1 to the report on its sixty-fourth session (ECE/TRANS/139/Add.1).

To facilitate the comparison of the draft programme of work with the text appearing in ECE/TRANS/139/Add.1, new proposals are highlighted in bold and the text proposed for deletion has been placed in square brackets.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2002-2006

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 02.6: INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

02.6.1 Inland waterway infrastructure Priority: 1

Description: Development of a coherent navigable waterway network in Europe.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party on Inland Water Transport will carry out the following activities:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

(a) Monitoring the implementation of AGN Agreement and consideration of possible amendments to it.

Output expected: Preparation of action plans on elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territory of more than one State Party to AGN and preparation of proposals on the development of concrete river-sea routes in the context of the AGN Agreement (**as called for in resolution No. 252 of the Inland Transport Committee of 20 February 2003**). Priority: 2

(b) Revision of the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network ("blue book") in order to enable Governments to monitor the progress in the implementation of the AGN Agreement.

Output expected: Preparing every five years a revised version of the blue book. Priority: 1

[(c) Consideration, jointly with EU, ECMT and international financial institutions concerned, of possible measures aimed at assistance to countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the realization of projects concerning the development of the E waterway network in order to enable the countries concerned to overcome the financial problems involved.

Output expected: Presentation of the list of the most important projects relating to the completion of missing links and elimination of bottlenecks in the E waterway network on the territory of countries of Central and Eastern Europe to the international bodies concerned. (2003) Priority: 3]

(c)[(d)] Preparation and circulation of maps of European inland waterways in order to avail Governments with up-to-date data concerning inland waterway infrastructure in Europe.

Output expected: Publication every five years of the update of the map of European Inland Waterways. Priority: 2

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

[(e) Establishment of an inventory of bottlenecks and missing links in the E waterway network, impeding international transport by inland waterways in order to draw the attention of Governments and international institutions concerned to the most important projects of international concern. (2003)

Output expected: Identification of plans and projects of member States relating to the completion of missing links and elimination of bottlenecks in E waterway network. Priority: 2]

(d)[(f)] Preparation of a study on the establishment of the European recreational navigation network. (2005)

Output expected: Drafting a basic document on the possible establishment in Europe of a recreational navigation network through the elaboration of a particular international instrument. Priority: 3

02.6.2 Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport including inland water transport safety and facilitation of its operations Priority: 1

Description:

(a) Exchange of views on selected aspects of new and improved techniques in inland water transport, their economic importance and appropriate applications; standardization of ship's papers and consideration of relevant legal provisions with a view to their harmonization aimed at facilitating and promoting international water transport in Europe.

(b) Standardization of technical requirements for inland navigation vessels with a view to ensuring the high level of safety of navigation throughout the European network of inland waterways and the reciprocal recognition on this basis of ship's certificates.

(c) Harmonization of safety requirements for inland navigation in Europe with a view to ensuring homogeneous and internationally acceptable standards of safety of navigation throughout the European network of inland waterways.

Work to be undertaken: The Working Party, using when necessary the expertise of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation, will continue its work on the following questions:

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

[(a) Introduction of modern methods of navigation and harmonization of requirements in this respect (including in particular container, ro-ro, coastal/sea-river navigation, pushed towing, etc.) in order to ensure the competitiveness of inland water transport vis-à-vis other modes of transport.

Output expected: Consideration of the need for extension of existing classification of European inland waterways with a view to standardization of ships and inland waterways for sea-river navigation. (2003)

Priority: 2

(b) Exchange of information on measures aimed at promoting transport by inland waterways through the use of economic instruments, such as incentives and taxation, and taking into account external costs of the various modes of transport in order to make a wider use of economic and environmental advantages of this mode of transport.

Output expected: Preparation of a draft resolution of the Inland Transport Committee on the promotion of inland navigation. (2002)

Priority: 1]

(a)[(c)] Preparation and circulation of a study on the situation and trends in inland navigation in order to avail Governments with up-to-date basic information and data concerning inland water transport mode.

Output expected: Drafting a summary on recent developments in the field of inland navigation in member Governments once every two years.

Priority: 2

(b)[(d)] Application and updating of the Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (annex to resolution No. 17, revised) in order to ensure a high level of safety of navigation.

Output expected: General revision of the Recommendations with a view to their harmonization on a Pan-European level with due regard, in particular, to the provisions in force within the European Union and river commissions **and consideration of a possibility and modality for the elaboration of specific unified technical requirements for sea-river vessels.** (2005)

Priority: 1

(c)[(e)] Application and updating of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) and the provisions concerning Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways (SIGNI) to ensure a high level of safety in international traffic.

Output expected: Adoption of amendments to CEVNI concerning, **in particular,** high-speed vessels and navigation in reduced visibility **and publication of a revised SIGNI.** [(2004)](2005)

Priority: 1

- (d)[(f)] Elaboration of requirements for the prevention of pollution from vessels with a view to protecting the environment from pollution, noise and vibration originating from shipping.

Output expected: [Amendment of the annex of resolution No. 17, revised, with provisions on technical means for the prevention of pollution from vessels (2002);]Amendment of resolution No. 21 on Prevention of Water Pollution by Inland Navigation Vessels (2004); and Consideration of measures aimed at prevention of air pollution from inland navigation vessels. (2005)

Priority: 1

- (e)[(g)] Promotion of implementation of existing UNECE Conventions pertaining to inland navigation and assessment of the legal instruments concerned in order to consider updating those which have become obsolete.

Output expected: Identification of problems which might have made member States refrain from becoming Parties to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Passengers and Luggage by Inland Waterway (CVN) and presentation of appropriate recommendations in this regard to the Inland Transport Committee.

Priority: 2

ACTIVITIES OF A LIMITED DURATION

- (f) **Preparation with the help of a Group of Volunteers of an Inventory of existing legislative obstacles that hamper the establishment of a harmonized and competitive Pan-European inland navigation market and formulation of solutions to overcome them. (2005)**

Priority: 1

- (g)[(h)] Following the developments relating to the possible accession of Central and Eastern European countries to the CLNI Convention of 1988 with a view to deciding whether this may ensure the establishment in Europe of a unique regime of liability of owners of inland navigation vessels. (2004)

Priority: 3

- [(i)] Consideration of additional Protocols to the Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterways (CMNI). (2004)

Output expected: Adoption of a resolution with two Protocols annexed to it.

Priority: 2]

- (h)[(j)] Consideration of upgrading the status of resolutions Nos. 17, revised (Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels), 24 (European Code for Inland Waterways) and 31 (Recommendations on boatmasters' licences) including their possible conversion into binding instruments with a view to providing, *inter alia*, for reciprocal recognition by its Parties of ship's certificates and crew members' licences issued on their basis. (2005)

Output expected: Presentation of amendments to the annex to resolution No. 17, revised, and to CEVNI in such a way that they could become a part of a binding instrument.

Priority: 2

(i)[(k)] Elaboration of requirements for anchors of vessels **other than self-propelled cargo barges** to ensure a commonly acceptable level of safety of navigation. [(2004)]**(2008)**

Output expected: Adoption of amended provisions of the annex to resolution No. 17, revised, relating to requirements for anchors of passenger vessels and pushed convoys.

Priority: 2

(j)[(l)] Consideration of recommendations on technical requirements for electronic navigational shipborne equipment and its installation on board ships, including, in particular, radar installations and rate-of-turn indicators to ensure their interchangeability as well as a commonly acceptable level of safety. [(2003)] **(2005)**

Priority: 2

(k)[(m)] Elaboration of a recommendation on a uniform system of traffic guidance on European inland waterways with a view to improving the safety and efficiency of traffic. (2004) [(consideration of the item postponed until 2002)]

Priority: 2

(l)[(n)] Consideration of minimum manning requirements, working and rest hours of crews of vessels in inland navigation with a view to ensuring safety of navigation. [(2003)]**(2005)**

Priority: 2

(m)[(o)] Establishment of common principles and technical requirements for a Pan-European River Information Service. (2005)

Priority: 2

TENTATIVE LIST OF MEETINGS FOR 2004

March

17-19 Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) (twenty-seventh session)

June

8-10 Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) (twenty-eighth session)

October

19- 21 Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) (forty-eighth session)
