

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT TODAY

Half of Europe's population lives close to the coast or inland waterways. Many industrial centres in the European region can be reached by inland navigation. However the potential of inland navigation in comparison with other inland transport modes in Europe is still not fully exploited. Inland water transport is a safe, multifunctional, reliable, economical and environmentally friendly mode of transport with still untapped capacities and potential for growth. Whereas major pan-European road and rail transport as well as port-hinterland corridors are increasingly overloaded and congested.

For more than 60 years the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), through its various technical and policy bodies, has been working towards smooth and efficient inland water transport across the ECE region as well as to expand the pan-European inland waterway network to take advantage of this efficient, safe and sustainable mode of transport.

Today 6% of all goods transported in the European Union are carried on inland water vessels (road and rail transport carry 76% and 18%, respectively). In the Russian Federation, under difficult meteorological conditions, inland waterways account for around 2% of total goods transport. However, countries with efficient navigable waterways and year-round access, particularly along the Rhine corridor, have considerably higher shares of freight transport by inland waterways, such as the Netherlands (35%), Belgium (15%) and Germany (12%). □

PROMOTING INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

UNECE provides a unique platform and policy forum for its 56 member States, where technical and legal issues of inland water transport can be addressed with emphasis on:

- Pan-European dimension of inland waterways and ports;
- Intermodal linkages to become part of modern supply chain systems;
- Cross-sectoral issues (dangerous goods, environment, security);
- International instruments on common rules, regulations and benchmarks.

UNECE CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In cooperation with the European Union, River Commissions and competent international bodies and industry groups, twelve **international Conventions and Agreements** have been developed, including:

- **Convention relating to the Unification of Certain Rules concerning Collision in Inland Navigation;**
- **Convention on the Registration of Inland Navigation Vessels;**
- **European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN);**
- **Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC);**
- **European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN);**
- **Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI).**

In addition, UNECE has prepared and maintains numerous **recommendations, resolutions and guidelines** that contain provisions for safety, environmental protection and technical specifications on inland waterways in the form of the following Resolutions:

- **Rules of the road (Resolution No. 24);**
- **Waterway marking (Resolution No. 59);**
- **Requirements for inland navigation vessels (Resolution No. 61);**
- **Boatmaster certificates (Resolution No. 31);**
- **Standardised vocabulary for radio-connections (Resolution No. 35);**
- **River Information Services (RIS) (Resolution No. 57);**
- **Environmental protection (Resolution No. 21);**
- **Recreational navigation (Resolutions Nos. 13, 14, 40, 41, 52);**
- **Electronic chart display and information system (Resolution No. 48).**

HOW DOES UNECE WORK

All UNECE inland navigation activities are pursued by two inter-governmental Working Parties. Under the authority of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee, the **Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3)** meets once a year to ensure a regular update of the above-mentioned legal instruments, guidelines, recommendations and other publications on inland water transport. It is assisted by the **Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3)** that meets twice a year to undertake technical and other preparatory work for SC.3. In addition, a number of expert groups work under the authority of SC.3 to provide, in a flexible and efficient manner, required technical and administrative support.

Some issues relating to inland navigation, such as the transport of dangerous goods as well as environmental, intermodal, logistics and statistical issues, are regularly taken up by other UNECE Working Parties, notably on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15), Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) and Transport Statistics (WP.6). □

UNECE Member States

Albania	Greece	Republic of Moldova
Andorra	Hungary	Romania
Armenia	Iceland	Russian Federation
Austria	Ireland	Serbia
Azerbaijan	Israel	Slovakia
Belarus	Italy	Slovenia
Belgium	Kazakhstan	San Marino
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kyrgyzstan	Spain
Bulgaria	Latvia	Sweden
Canada	Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Croatia	Lithuania	Tajikistan
Cyprus	Luxembourg	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Czech Republic	Malta	Turkey
Denmark	Monaco	Turkmenistan
Estonia	Montenegro	Ukraine
Finland	Norway	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	United States of America
Georgia	Poland	Uzbekistan
Germany	Portugal	

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

The sessions of the UNECE Working Parties concerned with inland navigation (SC.3 and SC.3/WP.3) and its expert groups are open to all UNECE member States, competent inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as invited experts. □

For more information please contact the UNECE secretariat.

RECENT UNECE PUBLICATIONS IN INLAND WATER TRANSPORT



Budapest Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway (CMNI)

The publication contains the text of the Convention in five languages: Dutch, English, French, German and Russian.



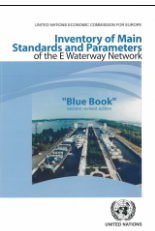
European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI)

The publication contains harmonized rules of the road and signalling in inland navigation. Available in English, French, German and Russian.



Signs and Signals for Inland Waterways (SIGNI)

The publication contains a set of unified signs and signals used in inland waterways for the safety of navigation. The system of signs and signals is harmonized with the maritime system of buoyage.



Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (Blue Book)

The publication contains detailed data on existing and envisaged standards and parameters of E-waterways and ports as reflected in the AGN and serves as an instrument for monitoring the implementation of the AGN. Latest edition: 2012.



Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61)

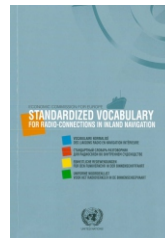
The Recommendations set up unified rules for construction and rigging of vessels, their inspection and issuance of ships' certificates.

RECENT UNECE PUBLICATIONS IN INLAND WATER TRANSPORT



Map of European Inland Waterways

The map is updated every 5 years and reflects all European inland waterways that can be used for commercial shipping. The waterways are presented in accordance with Resolution No. 32 and provide useful information on the parameters of each inland waterway section. Latest edition: 2012.



Standardized UNECE Vocabulary for Radio-Connections in Inland Navigation

This compact publication contains standardized five-language phrases recommended for usage in the course of radio communications in order to overcome language difficulties. Latest edition: 2010.



White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe

The White Paper, published in 2011, contains an overview of the performance of inland transport in the ECE region, the current state of its infrastructure, its institutional and regulatory framework and provides policy recommendations. It contains a supplement on inland water transport in the USA.

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**Working Party on
Inland Water Transport
(SC.3)**

