


Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Inland Water Transport
Sixty-seventh session

Geneva, 11–13 October 2023

**Report of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport
on its Sixty-Seventh Session**

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I. Attendance

1. The Working Party on Inland Water Transport (the Working Party or SC.3) held its sixty-seventh session from 11 to 13 October 2023 in Geneva.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following countries: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine.
3. Delegations of European Boating Association (EBA) and International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) were present. Delegation of Maritime Autonomous Systems Regulatory Working Group of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (MASRWG) was present at the invitation of the secretariat.
4. Mr. F. Dionori, Chief of the Transport Networks and Logistics section, opened the session. He welcomed the participants and wished them successful work.

II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/219, Informal document SC.3 No. 1 (2023)

5. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda subject to modifications at the session: agenda item 18 "Other business" was complemented with subparagraph "Upcoming Events and Publications on Inland Water Transport". It was supplemented with Informal document SC.3 No. 1 (2023) so as to take into account Informal documents SC.3 Nos. 2 to 5.
6. In accordance with established practice, it was agreed that only the main decisions should appear in the draft prepared by the secretariat for reading at the end of the session. A full report would be prepared by the Chair with the assistance of the secretariat and circulated after the session.

III. Election of Officers (agenda item 2)

7. Mr. W. Vuylsteke (Belgium) was elected as the Chair for the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Working Party.
8. Mr. V. Dabrowski (Czechia) was elected as the Vice-Chair for the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Working Party.

IV. Workshop "Climate Change Mitigation Activities in Inland Water Transport" (agenda item 3)

Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/1

9. Following the decision of SC.3 at its sixty-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/217, paragraph 104), delegations took part in the workshop dedicated to activities on mitigating climate change from inland water transport, strategies, programmes and projects in this field, progress made by countries, international organizations and other key stakeholders, and the way forward. The workshop focused on: (a) climate change mitigation activities in inland water transport, strategies, programmes and projects in this field, (b) progress made by countries, international organizations and other key stakeholders, and lessons learned, (c) priorities for future activities in this field and (d) milestones to be included in the Climate Action Plan of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) in the field of inland water transport.
10. The key speakers were: Mr. L. Wyrowski, secretary of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24), Mr. R. Janssens, secretary of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) and the secretariat.
11. In his presentation, Mr. Wyrowski highlighted the decisions of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) at its eighty-fifth session in support of safe and efficient achievement of

the targets, commitments and solutions on climate change. He described the ongoing work on developing the ITC Strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport, the draft outline and the timeline to ensure the endorsement of the strategy by Ministers at the eighty-sixth session of ITC in February 2024.

12. Mr. Janssens continued with a presentation on the development in road vehicle electrification and new trends in the electric vehicle charging infrastructure. He informed SC.3 about a forthcoming publication focused on e-mobility and charging infrastructure, including in an urban context, that would also cover trends in inland water transport, that was expected in February 2024. Among other action areas in this field he mentioned the establishment of an informal e-mobility task force.

13. On behalf of SC.3, the Chair thanked the speakers for the excellent presentations. The presentations were followed by questions and topics for further consideration. The participants were invited to respond to a multiple-choice questionnaire.

14. The Russian Federation informed the Working Party about the national measures and plans in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation in accordance with the National Climate Change Action Plan, including inland water transport.

15. The participants took part in the round table discussions. The secretariat gave an overview of the answers to the multiple-choice questionnaire.

16. The respondents were of the opinion that the efficiency of the climate change mitigation policy in inland water transport was:

- At the European level – 63 per cent
- At the national level – 61 per cent.

17. The respondents considered that the efficiency of climate change mitigation policy in the sector could be improved by means of:

- Increased investments
- Broader introduction of climate change mitigation measures into the national policy
- Development of national programmes
- Development of the regulatory framework.

The participants stressed the need for developing common measures coordinated at the level of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) that will become the basis of the relevant national programmes.

18. Among the main obstacles for improving climate change mitigation activities were mentioned:

- Lack of coordination between the structures involved in climate change mitigation activities
- Insufficient funding
- Need for the public support
- Insufficient regulatory and legislative framework.

19. The participants agreed that priority should be given to the following areas of climate change mitigation strategies for inland water transport:

- Intergovernmental support
- Regulatory basis
- Institutional arrangements
- Policy support.

20. In the field of the policy support, the following priorities were mentioned:

- Supporting the modal shift from road transport to inland water transport, along with other transport modes

- Optimizing infrastructure and transport operations
- Supporting digitalization in the sector
- Increasing efficiencies in the freight transport and logistics systems
- Improving the fleet management
- Supporting sectoral activity changes such as a reduced demand for fossil fuels, increased energy efficiency and circular economy
- Developing more tools to monitor and providing a wide range of information relevant to initiatives for reducing the environmental footprint of inland water transport. Enhanced cooperation/coordination between the key players

21. Among the necessary institutional arrangements, the participants indicated (a) enhanced cooperation and coordination between the key players, (b) developing the existing and new partnerships and (c) central coordination. It was mentioned that the Working Party already had long term partnerships with the river commissions and other key players on the various aspects on inland navigation.

22. The participants agreed that examples of lessons learned in the climate change mitigation policy were:

- Risk of increasing costs due to the delay in the implementation of climate change mitigation measures
- Need for strengthening the capacities of climate change units in ministries and agencies
- Need for multiple forms of international cooperation
- Need for raising awareness and building strategic capacity
- More engagement of the private sector.

23. All respondents mentioned that their countries and/or organizations were already engaged in the international cooperation in this field in the form of international partnerships, though bilateral and/or multilateral agreements or international and/or national projects. The Chair and the Vice Chair mentioned (a) the importance of investments at the international level for an efficient climate mitigation policy and (b) the role of coordination and cooperation at the international level.

24. The Working Party agreed that the following actions could be included in the ITC strategy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in inland transport until 2050:

- Continue exchanging best practices and support programmes and pilot projects aimed at modernization and greening of the fleet and monitor their implementation
- Continue promoting the role of water transport using alternative fuels or electromotion and encourage member States to support them
- Support and encourage research studies and activities, aimed at maintaining and further increasing the inland water transport competitive edge in environmental performance
- Facilitate accession to and implementation of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) and other legal instruments of the United Nations under the purview of ECE that directly affect climate change mitigation
- Encourage member States to set concrete targets for inland water transport in reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants as set out in the *White Paper on the Progress, Accomplishments and Future of Sustainable Inland Water Transport*
- Encourage the optimization of the inland waterway infrastructure network in order to facilitate the modal shift to inland water transport from other inland transport modes
- Facilitate the development of new and innovative solutions, supported by regulatory initiatives.

25. Discussion went on monitoring of progress achieved by countries. The secretariat was asked to prepare a proposal on monitoring the implementation of the ITC strategy in the field of inland water transport by member States.

26. Discussion continued on a desirability of highlighting the role of ECE in the draft strategy as a platform for sharing the experience and best practice and its regulatory work in the fields relevant for climate change mitigation, including modal shift, circular economy and innovations, in particular, in inland water transport. The Chair and the secretariat took part. EBA mentioned the need for facilitating the transition towards zero emission fleet without a serious impact of the number of the existing vessels, that would require design solutions, financial support and the availability of alternative fuels, which is particularly important for recreational navigation. The Chair invited member States to share information and give presentations on the ongoing activities and initiatives on climate change mitigation in the sector.

27. SC.3 asked the secretariat to assist the Chair in finalizing (a) the proposal for the draft ITC strategy and (b) the input of the Working Party on the climate change mitigation activities for the 2024 biennial report, following the invitation of the ITC Chair and the Director of the Sustainable Transport Division.

V. Current Situation and Trends in Inland Water Transport (agenda item 4)

28. SC.3 took note of the information by the secretariat about the current situation and trends in inland water transport in Europe based on the main findings of the Market Observation annual report, edition 2023, of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR).¹

VI. European Inland Waterway Network (agenda item 5)

A. European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance

Document: ECE/TRANS/120/Rev.4

29. The Working Party took note of the information of Belgium in progress in acceding to AGN. The secretariat informed SC.3 that it had not received any amendment proposals to AGN so far.

30. SC.3 continued discussion on establishing the joint management and/or monitoring of AGN and *the Protocol on Combined Transport on Inland Waterways to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations* to ensure alignment between the two legal instruments and decided to come back to this issue at its next session.

B. Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network (“Blue Book”)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/144/Rev.3 and Amends.1–4, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/3, Informal document SC.3 No. 2 (2023)

31. The Working Party considered the draft fourth revised edition of the Blue Book (Informal document SC.3 No. 2 (2023)). SC.3 asked the secretariat to disseminate the text of the Blue Book in three languages to Governments by 20 October 2023. Final comments, if any, should be transmitted to the secretariat by 10 November 2023.

¹ www.ccr-zkr.org/files/documents/om/om23_II_en.pdf.

32. SC.3 adopted the fourth revision of the Blue Book and asked the secretariat to submit it to the eighty-sixth session of ITC in February 2024. SC.3 further asked the secretariat (a) to release the printed version of the Blue Book in all working languages and (b) to introduce the necessary updates to the Blue Book database in due time.

33. SC.3 took note of the information by Belgium about progress in the most important infrastructure projects: (a) elevating of bridges on the Albert Canal, and (b) project Seine–Schelde on the Belgian territory.

34. SC.3 took note of the information by Czechia about recent decisions on infrastructure projects.

C. Inventory of Most Important Bottlenecks and Missing Links in the E Waterway Network (Resolution No. 49, Revision 2)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/159/Rev.2, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/4

35. The Working Party approved amendment No. 2 to the second revision of the *Inventory of Most Important Bottlenecks and Missing Links in the E Waterway Network*, preliminarily approved at its sixty-second, sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions, as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/4.

VII. Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (agenda item 6)

36. Mr. Dabrowski made a brief report on the results of work of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) in 2023. SC.3 endorsed the reports of the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of SC.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/124 and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/126).

A. European Code for Inland Waterways (Resolution No. 24, Revision 6)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/115/Rev.6, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/5, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/6

37. The Working Party approved the draft amendments to the sixth revision of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI), preliminarily approved by SC.3/WP.3 at its sixty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/5, annex I).

38. SC.3 took note of the preliminary proposal for a new annex 12 “List of Vessel’s Papers to be Carried On Board”, prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/5, annex II). EBA mentioned that moving of the list of vessel’s papers to a separate annex should not bring to any additional documents being required for pleasure craft. The secretariat was asked to transmit the proposal to the CEVNI Expert Group.

39. The Working Party noted that the thirty-ninth meeting of the CEVNI Expert Group was postponed. It took note of the preliminary agenda of the meeting and encouraged countries to take part in the activities of the CEVNI Expert Group.

40. The Working Party took note of the amendments to (a) the Police Regulations for the Navigation of the Rhine adopted by CCNR at its spring session in 2023 and (b) the Police Regulations for the Navigation of the Mosel adopted by the Mosel Commission at its plenary session on 24 May 2023 in Trier (Germany) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/6, annex II). The secretariat was asked to transmit the document for the consideration of the CEVNI Expert Group.

41. SC.3 took note of the information by Belgium on the ongoing work on implementing provisions of CEVNI 6 in the Flemish national navigation regulations.

B. Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61, Revision 2)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172/Rev.2 and Amends. 1–4, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/7, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/8

42. The secretariat presented the draft amendments to appendix 1 of resolution No. 61 “List of Inland Waterways Divided Geographically into Zones 1, 2 and 3” as contained in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/7 and ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/8, which covered inland waterways of Belarus, Croatia, France, Germany, Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Sweden, based on information from member States and Directive (EU) 2016/1629.

43. SC.3 was informed about the ongoing updating of Annex I of Directive (EU) 2016/1629. The Working Party decided to postpone consideration of the amendments contained in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/8, appendix 1, until the revised Directive (EU) 2016/1629 came into force, and meanwhile continue this work in 2024. Czechia supported.

44. Following the proposal of the Russian Federation, the Working Party adopted the amendments to appendix 1 of the annex of resolution No. 61, revision 2, as resolution No. 105 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/8, appendix 2).

45. SC.3 took note of the presentation of the Russian Federation on new projects of prototypes of electrical propulsion and hybrid vessels with the class of the Russian Classification Society with fuel cells that included cruising vessels, day trip vessels and pleasure craft, designed for operation on rivers and in urban areas. Questions followed from MASRWG.

46. SC.3 took note of the adoption of the “European Standard Laying Down Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels”, edition 2023.

C. Ship-Borne Barges (Resolution No. 15)

Documents: TRANS/SC.3/131, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/9

47. The secretariat reminded the session that SC.3/WP.3 at its sixty-third session agreed to recommend SC.3 to confirm the status of resolution No. 15 as valid, update its provisions where necessary and prepare the draft proposal on updating resolution No. 15 for the sixty-seventh session of SC.3, (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/126, paragraphs 61 and 62). SC.3 took note of the revised text, harmonized with provisions and terminology of the Convention on the Registration of Inland Navigation Vessels, CEVNI and the *Recommendation on Electronic Chart Display and Information System for Inland Navigation (Inland ECDIS)* (resolution No. 48, revision 4).

48. The Working Party adopted the draft proposal on updating resolution No. 15 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/9) as resolution No. 106.

D. Prevention of Pollution of Inland Waterways by Vessels (Resolution No. 21, Revision 2)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/179/Rev.1 and Add.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/10, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2020/29, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2023/17

49. Following the decision of SC.3/WP.3 at its sixty-third session, the Working Party approved the amendments to the list of reception facilities for transfer of waste generated on-board vessels (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2023/17) as amendment No. 2 to addendum No. 1 to the annex of resolution No. 21, revision 2.

50. The Working Party considered possible amendments to its resolutions based on resolutions adopted by the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Collection, Deposit and Reception of Waste Produced during Navigation on the Rhine and

Inland Waterways (CDNI) (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/10) and approved the proposed amendments to the annex of resolution No. 21.

VIII. River-Sea Transport in Europe (agenda item 7)

Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2023/19

51. The Working Party took note of the outcome of the discussion on river-sea transport in Europe at the sixty-third session of SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/126, paragraphs 67–74).

52. Discussion followed; the Chair and MASRWG took part. The Working Party agreed with the recommendation of SC.3/WP.3 to develop a resolution in support of the development of river-sea transport in Europe and discussed its purpose and scope. SC.3 decided to collect information from countries on the current situation, the legislative and regulatory framework for river-sea shipping, the certificates of vessels and crews, the bilateral and multilateral agreements which allow for the recognition of certificates and other relevant information.

53. SC.3 asked the secretariat to prepare a questionnaire for collecting information on river-sea transport in Europe for the sixty-fourth session of SC.3/WP.3 and to include this item in the agenda of the session.

IX. Automation in Inland Navigation and Smart Shipping (agenda item 8)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/211, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2023/15, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2023/20

54. This agenda item was moderated by Mr. J. Fanshawe (MASRWG). The Working Party discussed progress in implementation of the road map of the 2020–2024 “Forging international cooperation towards an international legislative basis for automation in inland navigation” (annex to resolution No. 95) and provided guidance to the secretariat for updating the road map. The Chair, the moderator and EBA provided comments. The secretariat was asked to prepare a draft road map for 2025–2028 and include this item in the agenda of its sixty-eighth session.

55. The Working Party took note of the outcome of discussion on applying the updated CCNR definitions of automation levels in inland navigation at the sixty-third session of SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2023/15) and considered it desirable to prepare a resolution on this issue to ensure consistency of the terminology at the pan-European level. The secretariat was asked to consult CCNR on this issue with a view to prepare a proposal for its sixty-eighth session.

56. The Working Party took note of the outcome of discussion on the policy areas for developing regulations for automated navigation at the sixty-third session of SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2023/20) and asked SC.3/WP.3 to continue this work in 2024.

57. SC.3 took note of the information by delegations about progress in the field of automation and smart shipping.

58. The Chair thanked Mr. Fanshawe for excellent moderation of the discussion.

X. Promotion of River Information Services and Other Information and Communication Technologies in Inland Navigation (agenda item 9)

A. Guidelines and Criteria for Vessel Traffic Services on Inland Waterways (Resolution No. 58)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/165/Rev.1 and Amend.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/12, Informal document SC.3 No. 4 (2023)

59. SC.3 took note of the information by the secretariat on finalization of the draft revised *Guidelines and Criteria for Vessel Traffic Services on Inland Waterways* (annex to resolution No. 58), based on the decisions of the sixty-third session of SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/126, paragraph 84) and the comments of Austria (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/12, annex 1) as contained in Informal document SC.3 No. 4 (2023).

60. The Working Party adopted the revised *Guidelines and Criteria for Vessel Traffic Services on Inland Waterways*, preliminarily approved by SC.3/WP.3 at its sixty-third session, as resolution No. 107. The Chair asked the secretariat to provide feedback on the adopted text to Austria.

B. Other Resolutions of the Economic Commission for Europe

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/156/Rev.4, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/176/Rev.2, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/198/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/199/Rev.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2023/10

61. The Working Party continued discussion on harmonizing resolutions of relevance to River Information Services (RIS) with the European Standard for River Information Services (ES-RIS) and decided to keep this item in the agenda of its sixty-eighth session. The secretariat was asked to hold consultations with the secretariats of CCNR and the European Committee for Drawing up Standards in the Field of Inland Navigation (CESNI) on this issue.

C. Other Activities

62. SC.3 took note of the information by Czechia about the start of project RIS COMEX II.² Czechia will start its part of the project in the beginning of 2024. The project engages 14 member States and 21 partners.

63. SC.3 took note of the information by the secretariat about the Danube Information Services Conference 2023 to be held on 5 and 6 December 2023 in Budapest.

XI. Mutual Recognition of Boatmasters' Certificates and Harmonization of Professional Requirements in Inland Navigation (agenda item 10)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/13, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/126

64. The Working Party took note of the outcome of the workshop "Addressing Labour Market Challenges and Making the Sector More Attractive", held at the sixty-third session of SC.3/WP.3 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/126, paragraphs 10–40).

65. ITF stressed the relevance of this agenda item and issues raised at the workshop for the whole inland water transport sector. He provided a brief historical overview of developments in mutual recognition of professional qualifications, including

² RIS Corridor Management Execution.

resolution No. 31 and regulatory documents of the European Union in this field, the engagement of the European Transport Workers' Federation in this work and, in particular, in the preparation of Directive (EU) 2017/2397 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation. The speaker continued with labour market challenges, highlighted the role of and supported the decision of SC.3/WP.3 to organize an informal working group on this issue, taken at its sixty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/126, paragraph 41).

66. SC.3 endorsed the decision of SC.3/WP.3 SC.3 to organize an informal working group to address labour market challenges. The Chair stressed the relevance of this topic and informed the session that CCNR would be interested to take part in this activity of the informal group. SC.3 approved the terms of reference prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/13) subject to the following modification in paragraph 8:

8. The ECE secretariat will assist the Informal Working Group in its activities and will ensure close cooperation with all stakeholders, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the European Commission, the European Committee for Drawing up Standards in the Field of Inland Navigation (CESNI) and River Commissions.

67. The Chair informed the Working Party about (a) the ongoing work of CCNR in this field and the status of the Regulations for Rhine Navigation Personnel (RPN), adopted by the CCNR in November 2022, which came into force on 1 April 2023 and have been implemented by all CCNR member States, and (b) activities of CESNI Working group on professional qualifications on new standards.

68. MASRG mentioned the activities of IMO on the same subject for autonomous ships and stressed that the dialog between ECE and IMO would be desirable to ensure consistency between maritime and inland navigation standards and approaches.

XII. Inland Waterway Statistics (agenda item 11)

69. SC.3 took note of the information by the secretariat about the current status of the E waterway census³ and additional clarifications on its role for complementing the E road and E rail censuses to get a multimodal approach for analysing trends in European freight transport.

70. The Working Party decided to continue exchange of information on barriers for increasing inland water transport volumes on European waterways, proposed at its sixty-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/217, paragraph 91), at its sixty-eighth session.

71. The secretariat was asked to prepare a request for data on transport volumes missing in the E waterway census and to transmit this to member States.

XIII. Recreational Navigation (agenda item 12)

A. International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (Resolution No. 40, Revision 4)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/147/Rev.4 and Amends.1–3

72. The Working Party took note of the information by the secretariat about progress in developing the online database of specimens of the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (ICC), complemented by specimens transmitted by Belarus and Germany, and requests from recreational boaters on the recognition of ICC.

73. Following the proposal of Hungary, SC.3 recognized the need to consider initiating a review process of resolution No. 40. The Chair, Hungary and the secretariat commented. The

³ <https://unece.org/transport/transport-statistics/e-iww-census-visualising-inland-water-volumes> and https://w3.unece.org/Stories/2023/01/inland_waterway_freight.

secretariat was asked to collect the necessary information, analyse the existing situation and present a progress report for the sixty-fourth session of SC.3/WP.3. EBA agreed to assist the secretariat in collecting information from its members, and SC.3 encouraged member States to also assist the secretariat.

B. Activities of the Informal Working Group on Recreational Navigation

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/14 and Corr. 1

74. The Working Party approved the second revision of the *Guidelines to Resolution No. 40*, preliminarily approved by SC.3/WP.3 at its sixty-third session and finalized after the session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/14 and Corr. 1), and asked the secretariat to issue it as a printed publication in three languages.

C. International Certificate (International Card) for Pleasure Craft (Resolution No. 13)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/15

75. Following the decision of SC.3/WP.3 at its sixty-third session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/226, paragraph 99), SC.3 exchanged opinions on the revision of resolution No. 13 based on the proposal prepared by the secretariat in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/15 and asked the secretariat to continue this work in 2024, based on the information from countries that applied it. EBA provided general remarks on a possible impact of some of the proposed modifications on countries that applied the resolution, in particular, for sea navigation, updating of the terminology in line with the European regulations and the maximum number of people onboard.

XIV. Harmonization of the Pan-European Legal Framework for Inland Navigation (agenda item 13)

A. Status of International Conventions and Agreements Affecting Inland Navigation

Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/18

76. The Working Party took note of the information on the updated status of legal instruments relevant to inland navigation (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/18). SC.3 invited governments to keep the secretariat informed of any further modifications or additions to the document.

77. SC.3 took note of the information by Belgium about the conclusion of the meeting of the CCNR Working Group on draught marks and scales that may result in some provisions of the Convention on the Measurement of Inland Navigation Vessels requiring updating. The secretariat was asked to contact CCNR and investigate this issue after the session.

78. The Working Party encouraged governments to accede to United Nations conventions and agreements of relevance to inland navigation, if they have not yet done so.

B. Application of Resolutions of the Economic Commission for Europe on Inland Navigation

79. The Working Party took note of the information by the secretariat about the application of ECE resolutions by countries and noted that the report will be submitted for its sixty-eighth session in 2024.

80. The Working Party encouraged governments to accept the ECE resolutions of relevance to inland water transport, if they have not yet done so.

XV. Activities of the Economic Commission for Europe Bodies of Interest to the Working Party (agenda item 14)

Documents: ECE/TRANS/328 and Add.1, ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/16, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/84, ECE/ADN/65, ECE/TRANS/WP.24/151, ECE/TRANS/WP.5/72, ECE/TRANS/WP.6/185

81. The Working Party took note of the information by the secretariat about the main decisions of ITC taken at its eighty-fifth session (21–24 February 2023) that are relevant to the Working Party.

82. SC.3 took note of the information by the secretariat about the recent activities of (a) the Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) and of the ADN Administrative Committee, (b) the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24), (c) the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) and (d) the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6).

83. The Working Party discussed the proposal on: (a) aligning the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of SC.3 with the ITC governance framework, and (b) reviewing the SC.3 mandate prepared by the secretariat as amended at the session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/16). SC.3 agreed that the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of SC.3 had already been aligned with those of ITC. SC.3 approved the proposal on reviewing the SC.3 mandate.

XVI. Programme of Work and Biennial Evaluation for 2024–2025 (agenda item 15)

Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/17

84. The Working Party reviewed and adopted its programme of work for 2024–2025 and the relevant parameters for its biennial evaluation as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2023/17. The secretariat was asked to submit the adopted programme of work to ITC.

XVII. Theme Topic for the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Working Party (agenda item 16)

85. SC.3 decided that the theme topic for its sixty-eighth session would be digitalization and greening of inland water transport.

86. SC.3 agreed that the theme topic for the sixty-fourth session of SC.3/WP.3 will be agreed between the Chair and the secretariat after the session.

XVIII. Tentative List of Meetings for 2024 (agenda item 17)

87. The Working Party approved the following tentative list of meetings for the year 2024:

14–16 February 2024	Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (sixty-fourth session);
19–21 June 2024	Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (sixty-fifth session);
23–25 October 2024	Working Party on Inland Water Transport (sixty-eighth session).

XIX. Other Business (agenda item 18)

Upcoming Events and Publications on Inland Water Transport

88. SC.3 was informed by the secretariat about the Technical meeting on decent and sustainable work in the inland waterways sector that will be held by the International Labour Organization in Geneva from 20 to 24 November 2023.

89. SC.3 was informed by the secretariat about the international event “Role of Inland Waterway Transport in the Framework of the European Union Mobility and Supply Policy” that will be held by the European Barge Union in Brussels on 27 November 2023.

90. SC.3 was informed by the Chair about an international event on smart shipping planned by Belgium in 2024 during its presidency of the European Union to be held in Antwerp on 16 May 2024.

91. SC.3 was informed by the secretariat about the publication “Water Transport Employment in Europe: The Role of Governance” by the International Transport Forum.

XX. Adoption of the Report (agenda item 19)

92. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party adopted the decisions taken at its sixty-seventh session based on a draft prepared by the secretariat.
