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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

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Item 5 (g) of the provisional agenda

Strategic questions of a modal and thematic nature:

Inland water transport

Draft Inland Transport Committee Resolution on Inland Water Transport

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Working Party on Inland Water Transport at its sixty-second session prepared a draft resolution of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) in support of the ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting” adopted at the International Conference on Inland Water Transport “Connecting by Inland Navigation” held on 18-19 April 2018 in Wrocław (Poland), organized jointly by ECE and the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland.

The ministerial declaration has consolidated the progress achieved since the pan-European Conference on inland waterway transport held on 13 and 14 September 2006 in Bucharest and proposed harmonized actions at a global level in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals while ensuring the engagement of all regions and countries with navigable waterways.

Following the approach used in ITC resolutions Nos. 250 and 258, the Committee may wish to **adopt** the resolution given below. The Committee may also wish to encourage member States with a vested interest to inland water transport, who have not yet done so, to become signatories of the Ministerial Declaration.

Facilitating the Development of Inland Water Transport

Resolution No. ...

(adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on ...)

The Inland Transport Committee,

Reaffirming the commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals which are relevant to inland water transport, such as building resilient infrastructure of inland waterway network, ensuring safety, accessibility and affordability inland water transport and links with energy and the environment, fostering innovation,

Recalling the ministerial declaration “Inland Navigation in a Global Setting”, adopted by the international ministerial conference on inland water transport (18-19 April 2018, Wroclaw, Poland),

Convinced that the outcome of this conference should bring practical value in terms of safety, environmental aspects, logistics, attractiveness and benefits for the economy and *reiterating* its support of the objectives and actions set out by the above-mentioned ministerial declaration,

Noting with satisfaction the outcome of the ministerial conference on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Convention regarding the Regime of Navigation on the Danube (29 June 2018, Belgrade) and the sixth congress of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine on the occasion of the hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the Mannheim Act, held on 17 October 2018 in Mannheim (Germany),

Bearing in mind the overall objective to develop efficient, balanced and flexible transport systems, which meet the economic, social, environmental, and safety requirements of ECE member governments,

Conscious of the important role of inland water transport as a significant part of a balanced transport system, especially its safety level, efficiency in terms of energy and costs, low emissions and lack of congestion, contribution to reducing transport and logistics costs,

Aware that the changes in the legislative framework and institutional structure of inland water transport in Europe, recent developments and trends provide new opportunities and challenges for the sector,

Acknowledging the role of modern technologies, innovations and digitalization in ensuring navigation safety and better logistics integration,

Recognizing the need for joining forces to extract the significant, still untapped, potential of the sector and, therefore, gain significant political support at the highest level,

Convinced that ECE, in close cooperation with other relevant international organizations, can and should support to the maximum extent possible, the realization of the tasks set by ministers in the Wroclaw declaration,

Invites member States to develop national action plans for the implementation of the objectives and strategic actions set out by the Wroclaw declaration and inform the Working Party on Inland Water Transport about progress,

Invites member States, River Commissions, international and public organizations and other stakeholders to maintain policy dialogue on good practices and measures relevant to the implementation of the objectives taking advantage of the framework provided by ECE,

Requests the Working Party on Inland Water Transport, in line with its strategy for 2016-2021, endorsed by the Inland Transport Committee on 24 February 2017, and in close cooperation with member States, the European Commission, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine, the Danube Commission, the Mosel Commission and the International Sava River Commission, to proceed with the implementation of the objectives and strategic actions mentioned above, and to amend its programme of work accordingly,

Requests the Working Party on Inland Water Transport to regularly report on the progress in the implementation of this resolution to the Inland Transport Committee.
