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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Inland Water Transport****Working Party on the Standardization of Technical
and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation****Sixtieth session**

Geneva, 16–18 February 2022

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Recreational navigation**Outcome of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Informal
Working Group on Recreational Navigation****Note by the secretariat****Mandate**

1. This document is submitted in line with the Proposed Programme Budget for 2022, part V, Regional cooperation for development, section 20, Economic Development in Europe, Programme 17, Economic Development in Europe (A/76/6 (Sect.20), para. 20.76).
2. The Informal Working Group on Recreational Navigation (the Group) held its fifth meeting on 10 and 11 February 2020 in Geneva and its sixth meeting on 2 November 2021 as a virtual meeting. This document contains the outcome of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Group as annexes I and II.
3. The Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation may wish to take note of the outcome of the meetings of the Group and provide further guidance to the Group.

Annex I

Outcome of the fifth meeting of the Informal Working Group on Recreational Navigation

1. The Informal Working Group on recreational navigation (hereafter the Group) held its fifth meeting on 10 and 11 February 2020 in Geneva, back-to-back with the fifty-sixth session of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) (12 to 14 February 2020).
2. The following participants took part in the meeting:
Mr. O. Stræte, Norwegian Maritime Authority,
Ms. C. Paddison, European Boating Association (EBA),
Mr. E. Vardi, International Sailing Schools Association (ISSA),
Mr. A. Starovoit, Free Boating Association,
Ms. V. Ivanova, the secretariat.
3. The secretariat informed the meeting that the representatives of Finnish Transport Safety Agency and Federal Office of Transport, Switzerland, were not able to attend the meeting.

I. Opening and adoption of the agenda

4. The participants adopted the following agenda:
 - I. Opening and adoption of the agenda
 - II. Adoption of the Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Group
 - III. Outcome of the sixty-third session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport
 - IV. Exchange of information on the current situation in the sector
 - V. Modules for CEVNI knowledge tests
 - VI. Answers to the questionnaire for collecting information about education and training of pleasure craft operators.
 - VII. ICC and the application of resolution No. 40.
 - VIII. Promotion of recreational navigation and water tourism in member States.
 - IX. Other business.
 - X. Next meeting.

II. Adoption of the Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Group

5. The Group adopted the Minutes of its fourth meeting held on 17–18 June 2019 in Geneva (IWG_RN/2019/8).

III. Outcome of the sixty-third session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport

6. The participants took note of the information by the secretariat about the decisions of the sixty-third session of SC.3 relevant to the activities of the Group (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/210):
 - (a) the adoption of the White Paper on the Progress, Accomplishments and Future of Sustainable Inland Water Transport, which was transmitted to the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) for endorsement at its eighty-second session;

- (b) the adoption of the programme of work for 2020–2021 of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3), which had been brought in line with the new ITC strategy;
- (c) the adoption of amendment 2 to annex IV of resolution No. 40, revision 4; and
- (d) discussion on traffic management of river day-trip vessels and tourist boats in European cities.

IV. Exchange of information on the current situation in the sector

7. Ms. Ivanova informed the Group:

- (a) on the specimens of the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (ICC) transmitted by Ireland, Lithuania and South Africa and a renewed ICC specimen transmitted by Finland were available in the UNECE database of ICC specimens;
- (b) about the consultations with Kyrgyzstan on the application of ICC;
- (c) about the inquiries from recreational boaters related to ICC received by the secretariat since the fourth meeting of the Group.

8. Mr. Vardi informed the meeting (a) on the ongoing work by ISSA in the field of development of educational and training programmes and online tests, in particular, the project MedSkipper and other developments, and (b) possible application of CEVNI as a part of education programmes for boaters in Israel.

9. Ms. Paddison informed the Group about the position statement of EBA on autonomous shipping in relation to recreational craft that had been agreed on by the EBA General Assembly. The position statement was forwarded by EBA to the secretariat.

10. Mr. Stræte highlighted the situation with issuing ICC in Norway: in 2019, 173 ICC were issued, which was slightly increased as compared to the preceding years, and the Authority was considering issuance of ICC for inland waterways, however, the demand for ICC for inland waterways was rather small.

11. Mr. Starovoit informed the Group on the ongoing work by Free Boating Association on (a) opening the 70 km Pripyat section of the E 40 waterway for recreational navigation, consisting of four touristic routes; (b) test voyage of the E 40 waterway from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea; (c) cooperation with Odessa Maritime Academy, in particular, developing a simulator for practical training of recreational boaters to be available online, and (d) developing of training programmes for commercial operation of smaller passenger vessels.

V. Modules for CEVNI knowledge tests

12. Ms. Paddison presented the proposals for the catalogue of questions for testing knowledge of CEVNI prepared by EBA. The document had been considered at the thirty-first meeting of the CEVNI Expert Group (5 November 2019), who had approved the proposal in general and agreed to continue cooperation with the Group on this issue and provide its expertise, if required. Ms. Ivanova mentioned that no additional remarks from the members of the CEVNI Expert Group have been received by the secretariat.

13. Ms. Ivanova presented to the participants the second draft of the catalogue of questions for testing knowledge of CEVNI.

15. The Group agreed that:

- The title should be “ECE catalogue of questions for testing recreational boaters’ knowledge of CEVNI”.
- The target number of questions in the catalogue should be 90, and the recommended number of questions in the test – 30.
- The questions should be subject to updating after the revision of CEVNI.

- The questions should be simply structured in order to be clear for candidates.
- Graphics used in questions could be figures from CEVNI or electronic charts with CEVNI signs and symbols. Using photos for test purposes was also considered.
- Candidates understanding that the metric system is used in CEVNI should be tested.

16. The Group agreed on the draft structure and scope of the catalogue of questions.

17. Mr. Vardi demonstrated examples of online test questions for CEVNI knowledge recently developed by ISSA. The Group considered it desirable to analyse the catalogues of questions for testing the knowledge of currently in use.

18. The Group agreed on the next steps and timelines for its further work.

II. Answers for the questionnaire on the application of the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft, education and training

19. The secretariat informed the Group about the ongoing work on sorting the information on the training courses for recreational boaters into several categories, following the decision of the fourth meeting of the Group. The secretariat was asked to continue this work and to circulate the detailed overview of answers to the members of the Group.

VI. ICC and the application of resolution No. 40

20. Ms. Ivanova presented the consolidated version of resolution No. 40. The secretariat was asked to check the title of the approved body for issuing of ICC and prepare an amendment to annex IV of resolution No. 40, if necessary.

VII. Promotion of recreational navigation and water tourism in member States

21. The Group recalled the interest for applying resolution No. 40 expressed by Iceland. The Group asked the secretariat and the members of the Group who had regular working contacts with the administrations of Iceland and Sweden, to contact them on the issue of applying resolution No. 40 and provide additional information.

22. Mr. Starovoit informed the Group about the proposals by Free Boating Association on the recommendations for the examination procedure and medical fitness requirements for candidates, aimed to promote the application of resolution No. 40.

VIII. Other business: the ECE database of ICC specimens

23. The Group recommended SC.3/WP.3 to bring the database of ICC specimens in line with the list of countries that apply resolution No. 40.

IX. Next meeting¹

24. The Group decided to have its next meeting in Geneva possibly on 5–6 October 2020 back-to-back with the sixty-fourth session of SC.3. The Group mentioned that more administrations should be engaged in its activities of for successful work, and asked the secretariat to extend the invitation.

¹ *Note by the secretariat:* the sixth meeting of the Group has been postponed till November 2021 due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Annex II

Outcome of the sixth meeting of the Informal Working Group on Recreational Navigation

1. The Informal Working Group on recreational navigation (the Group) held its sixth meeting on 2 November 2021 as a virtual meeting, back-to-back with the sixty-fifth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) (3 to 5 November 2021).
2. The following participants took part in the meeting:
Mr. K. Patrakka, Finnish Transport and Communications Agency,
Ms. C. Paddison, European Boating Association (EBA),
Messrs. E. Vardi and T. Lipski, International Sailing Schools Association (ISSA),
Messrs. A. Starovoit and A. Nunikyan, Free Boating Association,
Ms. V. Ivanova, the secretariat.
3. The Norwegian Maritime Authority informed the Group that it was not able to take part in this meeting.

I. Opening and adoption of the agenda

4. Ms. Ivanova opened the meeting, mentioned a long break in the activities of the Group and encouraged its members to continue the work planned at its previous meetings.
5. The participants adopted the following agenda:
 - I. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
 - II. Adoption of the minutes of the fifth meeting of the Group.
 - III. Outcome of the sixty-fourth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport.
 - IV. Current situation in the recreational navigation sector, impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and lessons learned.
 - V. Modifications in the draft sixth revision of the European Code for Inland Waterways that may be relevant to small and pleasure craft.
 - VI. Modules for CEVNI knowledge tests.
 - VII. ICC and the application of resolution No. 40.
 - VIII. Other business.
 - IX. Next meeting.

II. Adoption of the minutes of the fifth meeting of the Group

6. The secretariat mentioned that EBA had submitted comments to the draft minutes of the fifth meeting of the Group held on 10–11 February 2020 in Geneva. The Group adopted the minutes as finalized by the secretariat (IWG_RN/2020/5).

III. Outcome of the sixty-fourth session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport

7. The participants took note of the information by the secretariat about the decisions of the sixty-fourth session of SC.3 relevant to the activities of the Group (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/213):
 - (a) Implementation of the Strategy of the Inland Transport Committee until 2030;

- (b) Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on inland navigation and lessons learned;
- (c) Adoption of the updated list of reception facilities for transfer of waste generated on board vessels as resolution No. 99, and
- (d) Amendment to annex 4 of resolution No. 40 and the inquiries from recreational boaters on the cases when the International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft (ICC) was not accepted by the competent authorities of the country where the holder was a citizen/resident, and ICC had been issued in another country.

8. The participants took note of the information about (a) the new address of the ECE website and the web page of the Group and (b) the new format of the ECE database of ICC specimens.

IV. Current situation in the recreational navigation sector, impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and lessons learned

9. The participants exchanged information about the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on recreational navigation in Finland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ukraine as well as for members of EBA and ISSA. The following was mentioned:

- (a) The COVID-19 outbreak initially had a serious negative impact on recreational navigation;
- (b) Recreational navigation on inland waterways and in the coastal and sea areas ceased as citizens were instructed to stay at home;
- (c) Recreational navigation was in general not explicitly covered in legislation determining exceptional measures and different requirements applied by countries created additional problems for border crossing by recreational boaters;
- (d) Theoretical training had been realized mostly online and practical training had been postponed;
- (e) Recreational boats (particularly those kept overseas) were left for unexpectedly long periods resulting in maintenance issues.

10. The participants mentioned that demand for small and pleasure craft had increased during the pandemic.

11. Ms. Paddison mentioned that the situation for recreational boaters of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had been aggravated by problems related to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union.

12. The Group took note of the presentation by Mr. Lipski about the project MedSkippers. Ms. Ivanova mentioned that ICC could be considered when developing training courses for professional skippers.

V. Modifications in the draft sixth revision of the European Code for Inland Waterways that may be relevant to small and pleasure craft

13. The Group took note of the presentation by the secretariat about the finalization of the draft sixth revision of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) in 2021, the major amendments introduced to the draft and the modified provisions that could be relevant for small and pleasure or sport craft. After the adoption by SC.3, CEVNI 6 will be issued as a paper and online version and will be available on the ECE website.

14. The secretariat encouraged the members of the Group to disseminate the information about CEVNI 6, once it is adopted, among the administrations, recreational boaters and other parties concerned.

VI. Modules for CEVNI knowledge tests

15. The Group took note of the proposal for the structure of modules of the ECE catalogue of questions for testing recreational boaters' knowledge of CEVNI (annex I to resolution No. 40), updated by the secretariat based on the decisions of the fifth meeting of the Group and modified according to the draft CEVNI 6 (IWG_RN/2021/2).

16. The group had no comments for the amendment proposals to the structure of modules. Following the proposal of the Ms. Paddison, the Group decided to come back to this at the next meeting and asked the secretariat to prepare a consolidated version.

17. The Group recalled its decisions at the fifth meeting and agreed on further work on the modules:

- Prepare a working document with a general proposal for the ECE catalogue of questions for testing recreational boaters' knowledge of CEVNI for the sixtieth session of SC.3/WP.3;
- Finalize modules "Background", "General provisions" and "Prevention of pollution of water and disposal of waste generated on board vessels" at its next meeting;
- Transmit the final draft of the catalogue for consideration by the CEVNI Expert Group.

VII. ICC and the application of resolution No. 40

18. The secretariat informed the Group about (a) the ICC specimen transmitted by the Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration and (b) the current situation with the application of resolution No. 40 in Poland.

19. The secretariat informed the Group about the inquiries from recreational boaters received in 2020–2021. The Group agreed that they could be relevant for the Guidelines on the application of resolution No. 40 and decided to discuss possible revision of the Guidelines at its next meeting.

VIII. Other business

20. There were no issues proposed under this agenda item.

IX. Next meeting

21. The Group decided to have its seventh meeting as a one-day online meeting in the beginning of March 2022.
