



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
18 September 2023

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

### Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Administrative Committee of the European Agreement  
concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous  
Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)

Thirtieth session

Geneva, 25 August 2023

## Report of the Administrative Committee of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways on its thirtieth session\*

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\* Distributed in German by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine under the symbol CCNR-ZKR/ADN/67.



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## I. Attendance

1. The Administrative Committee of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) held its thirtieth session in Geneva on 25 August 2023 with Mr. H. Langenberg (Netherlands) as Chair and Mr. B. Birkhuber (Austria) as Vice-Chair. Representatives of the following Contracting Parties took part in the work of the session: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation and Switzerland.
2. The Administrative Committee noted that the representatives of Contracting Parties attending the session had been accredited and that the quorum of half the number of Contracting Parties required for taking decisions had been reached.
3. In accordance with article 17, paragraph 2 of ADN, and following a decision by the Committee (ECE/ADN/2, para. 8), a representative of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) also took part in the session as an observer.

## II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

*Documents:* ECE/ADN/66 and Add.1

4. The Administrative Committee adopted the agenda prepared by the secretariat.

## III. Status of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (agenda item 2)

5. The Administrative Committee noted that the number of Contracting Parties remained at 18: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine.

## IV. Matters relating to the implementation of ADN (agenda item 3)

### A. Classification societies

6. The Administrative Committee recalled that all Recommended ADN Classification Societies had to provide evidence, directly to the Administrative Committee, of their certification in accordance with standard EN ISO/IEC 17020:2012 (except clause 8.1.3).

### B. Special authorizations, derogations and equivalents

*Documents:* ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/32 (Netherlands)  
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/33 (Netherlands),  
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/34 (Netherlands),  
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/35 (Netherlands)

*Informal documents:* INF.3, INF.4, INF.5, INF.6, INF.7, INF.22 and INF.24 of the forty-second session of the ADN Safety Committee (Netherlands)

7. Referring to the outcome of the discussion (see report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/86, paras. 14 to 20) of the Safety Committee on the request by the competent authority of the Netherlands to issue, in accordance with 1.5.3.2, derogations for the use of hydrogen fuel cells or methanol as fuel for the propulsion of vessels, the Administrative Committee noted the conclusions and agreed to defer the discussion on this subject to the next session in

January 2024. The representative of the Netherlands volunteered to submit updated requests for consideration at that session.

8. It was recalled that the text of special authorizations, special agreements, derogations and equivalents, as well as their status, and of notifications, was available on the UNECE website at the following links: <https://unece.org/special-authorizations> and <https://unece.org/equivalences-and-derogations>.

### **C. Miscellaneous notifications**

*Informal documents:*

- INF.1 (Netherlands)
- INF.2 (Slovakia)
- INF.3 (Romania)
- INF.4 (Germany)
- INF.5 (Germany)

9. Examination statistics were provided by the governments of the Netherlands (informal document INF.1), Slovakia (informal document INF.2), Romania (informal document INF.3) and Germany (informal document INF.5). The Administrative Committee welcomed the documents and agreed to refer this information to the informal working group on the training of experts for further consideration.

10. The representative of Belgium questioned on how to reflect in the examination statistics the case a candidate failed the first examination and only succeeded in a retrial. The Administrative Committee invited the Chair of the informal working group to insert also this question on the agenda of the next meeting.

11. The Administrative Committee remarked that examinations statistics were considered very useful and invited countries to submit them regularly.

12. A model expert certificate was provided by the Government of Germany (informal document INF.4).

13. Contracting Parties were reminded to send the secretariat their model expert certificates and ADN examination statistics if they have not already done so.

### **D. Other matters**

14. The Administrative Committee invited countries to check the contact information for their competent authorities and, if necessary, to recognise classification societies from the recommended list in accordance with 1.15.2.4 of the annexed Regulations if they had not already done so.

### **V. Work of the Safety Committee (agenda item 4)**

15. The Administrative Committee took note of the work of the Safety Committee as reflected in the report on its forty-second session which it approved on the basis of the draft report prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/R.3 and Adds. 1-5 and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/R.4 and Adds.1-2) adopted by the Safety Committee during the report reading (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/86).

16. The Administrative Committee decided to consider the proposed amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN for entry into force on 1 January 2025, as contained in annex I of ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/86/Add.1, along with all other draft amendments adopted in 2022 and 2023 that had not yet been approved by the Administrative Committee, as a package at its thirty-first session on 26 January 2024.

## **VI. Programme of work and calendar of meetings (agenda item 5)**

17. The Administrative Committee noted that its next session was scheduled to take place at 12.00 on 26 January 2024 and that the deadline for submission of documents for that meeting was 27 October 2023.

## **VII. Any other business (agenda item 6)**

### **A. Training of experts, substantive questions**

18. The Administrative Committee discussed several ways forward to update the substantive questions, with the view of ensuring that all stake holders that participate actively in the informal working group on the training of experts, could also participate in the work, as their input and experience were highly valued. It was also mentioned that confidentiality should be ensured.

### **B. Participation in the ADN Safety and Administrative Committees**

19. The Administrative Committee noted the low number of contracting parties to the ADN participating in the work of the Safety and Administrative Committees and encouraged delegations to attend future sessions.

### **C. Tributes to Mr. Henk Langenberg (Netherlands)**

20. Learning that Mr. Henk Langenberg would retire by the end of the year and would no longer attend the sessions, the Administrative Committee thanked him for his excellent work and chairmanship over the last years. The Administrative Committee acknowledged his outstanding commitments with a long applause and wished him a long and happy retirement.

## **VIII. Adoption of the report (agenda item 7)**

21. The Administrative Committee adopted the report on its thirtieth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat and circulated to participants for approval after the session.

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