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

Thirty-first session
Geneva, 26 January 2024

Report of the Administrative Committee of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways on its thirty-first session*

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Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Attendance.....	1-3	3
II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)	4	3
III. Election of officers for 2024 (agenda item 2).....	5	3
IV. Status of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (agenda item 3).....	6-7	3
V. Matters relating to the implementation of ADN (agenda item 4).....	8-20	3
A. Classification societies.....	8	3
B. Special authorizations, derogations and equivalents.....	9-10	4
C. Miscellaneous notifications	11-19	4
D. Other matters	20	5
VI. Work of the Safety Committee (agenda item 5).....	21-25	5
VII. Programme of work and calendar of meetings (agenda item 6).....	26	6
VIII. Any other business (agenda item 7)	27-28	6
A. E-learning modules.....	27	6
B. Tributes to M. P. Dufour (France)	28	6
IX. Adoption of the report (agenda item 8)	29	6

I. Attendance

1. The Administrative Committee of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) held its thirty-first session in Geneva on 26 January 2024. 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 not less than half of the Contracting Parties required for the purpose of 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) took part in the session as observer.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Document: ECE/ADN/68 and Add.1

4. The Administrative Committee adopted the agenda prepared by the secretariat and noted the submission of informal documents INF.1 to INF.2.

III. Election of officers for 2024 (agenda item 2)

5. On a proposal of the representative of Belgium, Mr. B. Beldman (Netherlands) was elected Chair and Mr. B. Birkhuber (Austria) was re-elected Vice-Chair for the sessions in 2024.

IV. Status of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (agenda item 3)

6. The Administrative Committee noted that the number of Contracting Parties to ADN remained at eighteen.
7. Proposed corrections contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/84, annex II and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/86, annex I, were communicated to Contracting Parties on 22 October 2023 for acceptance (see C.N.452.2023.TREATIES-XI-D-6). Corrections were deemed accepted on 20 January 2024.

V. Matters relating to the implementation of ADN (agenda item 4)

A. Classification societies

8. The Administrative Committee noted that no further information on the Recommended Classification Societies was submitted and recalled that all Recommended ADN Classification Societies were requested to provide evidence to the Administrative Committee and ultimately for the next session in August 2024, 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.2/2024/31 (Netherlands)
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2024/32 (Netherlands),
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2024/33 (Netherlands),
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2024/34 (Netherlands)

Informal documents: INF.4, INF.5, INF.6, INF.7 and INF.8 of the forty-third session of the ADN Safety Committee (Netherlands)

9. Referring to the outcome of the discussion (see report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/88, paras. xx to xx) 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 August 2024. The representative of the Netherlands offered to submit updated requests for consideration at that session.

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

C. Miscellaneous notifications

Informal documents: INF.1 (Austria)
INF.2 (Netherlands)

11. Examination statistics were provided by the governments of the Austria (informal document INF.1) and the Netherlands (informal document INF.2). 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. It was remarked that examinations statistics were considered very useful and invited the informal working group to consider possible ways on how to mandate Contracting Parties to notify such statistics on a regular basis. It was mentioned that the list of notifications to be made by Contracting Parties was available in the annex to the report of the Administrative Committee on its second session (see ECE/ADN/4)

12. The Administrative Committee agreed to also use their bilateral contacts to other Contracting Parties to raise this issue. To collect the contact coordinates of the Competent Authorities in the Contracting Parties, the secretariat was invited to reach out to the corresponding permanent missions to the United Nations in Geneva.

13. The representative of Belgium recalled the discussion in the ADN Safety Committee on the need for some guidelines for competent authorities on how to prepare the examination statistics to avoid discrepancies in the reporting. The Administrative Committee invited the informal working group on the training of experts to also consider the possible establishment of such guidelines.

14. The Administrative Committee invited countries to check the contact information for their competent authority 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.

15. It was recalled that, according to 1.16.4.3 of the Regulations annexed to ADN, the Administrative Committee is expected to maintain an up-to-date list of the inspection bodies appointed. Information received so far is available on the UNECE website at <https://unece.org/country-information-competent-authoritiesnotifications-according-194>.

16. It was also recalled that model expert certificates received by the secretariat were available on the UNECE website at the following link: <https://unece.org/model-expert-certificates>.

17. The representative of Germany stated that his Government has issued a new model for expert certificates containing an electronic chip. He offered to send updated information on this model to the secretariat. The certificates issued so far contained a minor typing error, which should be fixed as soon as feasible. However, the validity of the certificate could still be checked using the electronic chip. The representative of Germany will update the Administrative Committee on future developments.

18. It was noted that only 10 Contracting Parties have sent their model expert certificates to the secretariat. The Administrative Committee stressed the importance of making this information available to enforcing authorities as soon as possible.

19. Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, were reminded to send their model expert certificates and ADN examination statistics to the secretariat.

D. Other matters

Document: ECE/ADN/2024/2 and Corr.1 (Austria and Germany)

20. The Administrative Committee adopted the Standardized vessel checklist for tank vessels submitted by Austria and Germany in accordance with 1.8.1.2.1 of ADN. The secretariat was requested to publish the list on the website.

VI. Work of the Safety Committee (agenda item 5)

Document: ECE/ADN/2024/1 and Corr.1

21. The Administrative Committee took note of the work of the Safety Committee as reflected in the report on its forty-third session held in Geneva from 22-26 January 2024 (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/88 and Add.1). It noted that the Safety Committee had reviewed and checked all amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN it had proposed at its 2022 and 2023 sessions for entry into force on 1 January 2025 (as consolidated by the secretariat in documents ECE/ADN/2024/1 and Corr.1), had modified some of them, and had proposed new amendments and corrections to ADN 2023. The Committee adopted all these amendments and corrections, as listed in annexes I and II respectively, of the report of the Safety Committee. The secretariat was requested to take the necessary steps to communicate the corrections to Contracting Parties in accordance with the usual procedure, so that the texts could be rectified as soon as possible.

22. The Administrative Committee requested the secretariat to prepare a consolidated list of all the proposed amendments which it had adopted for entry into force on 1 January 2025 so that they could be made the subject of an official proposal to amend the ADN in accordance with the procedure set out in article 20. The notification would have to be issued no later than 1 July 2024, with a reference to 1 January 2025 as the scheduled date of entry into force.

23. It was noted that at its forty-fourth session, the Safety Committee would only consider for adoption and entry into force on 1 January 2025, amendments and corrections to already adopted texts that would be necessary to ensure harmonization between ADR, RID and ADN, following the decisions taken by the Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods at its spring session in March 2024 and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods at its 115th session in April 2024.

24. The Administrative Committee invited the UNECE and CCNR secretariats to continue to cooperate to ensure consistency of all linguistic versions of ADN 2025. It also requested the UNECE secretariat to prepare the consolidated text of ADN as modified on 1 January 2025 as a United Nations publication and to make it available in advance of that date so that countries could organize themselves to implement the new provisions.

25. The Administrative Committee welcomed the adoption by the Safety Committee of its revised Rules of Procedures as published at: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/Rules%20of%20procedure%20ADN%20Safety%20Committee%20E.pdf>.

VII. Programme of work and calendar of meetings (agenda item 6)

26. The Administrative Committee noted that its next session was scheduled to take place at 12.00 on 30 August 2024 and that the deadline for submission of documents was 31 May 2024.

VIII. Any other business (agenda item 7)

A. E-learning modules

27. The Administrative Committee noted the information by Germany that the RID/ADR/ADN informal working group on e-learning was discussing a combination of e-learning modules and in-person units which could be of interest for the informal working group on the training of experts. Interested delegates were invited to participate in the next meeting of the informal working group on e-learning.

B. Tributes to M. P. Dufour (France)

28. Learning that M. Pierre Dufour will soon retire and no longer attend the sessions, the Administrative Committee acknowledged his strong support over the last thirteen years to the work of the committee and thanked him for his dedication to provide information on the interlinkage of maritime and inland navigation. The Administrative Committee wished him a long and happy retirement.

IX. Adoption of the report (agenda item 8)

29. The Administrative Committee adopted the report on its thirty-first session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat and sent to delegations for approval by e-mail after the session.
