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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

###### Sixty-sixth session

Geneva, 19–21 February 2025

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

##### Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation: European Code for Inland Waterways (Resolution No. 24, Revision 6)

## Terms of Reference for the Expert Group on the European Code for Inland Waterways

### Note by the secretariat

### Mandate

1. The present document is submitted in accordance with the proposed programme budget for 2025, part V (Regional cooperation for development), section 20 (Economic development in Europe), programme 17 (Economic development in Europe) (A/79/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.6).
2. At its sixty-eighth session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) decided to prepare draft terms of reference for the Expert Group on the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) in order to emphasise its status by updating its position to a formal team of specialists and facilitate its work. The secretariat was asked to prepare the draft terms of reference of the Group for the sixty-sixth session of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3).
3. The draft terms of reference is contained in annex I to this document and the proposal for the work plan – in annex II. SC.3/WP.3 may wish to discuss the drafts and provide guidance to the secretariat.



## **Annex I**

### **Draft Terms of Reference**

#### **I. Scope of Tasks and Achievements Expected**

1. The Expert Group on the on the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI Expert group) shall be set up as a subsidiary body of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and will focus its work on the following areas:

(a) Upgrade the status of the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) to enable skippers to identify the navigation rules applicable to their itinerary;

(b) Identify divergences between the current revision of CEVNI, the Police Regulations for the Navigation of the Rhine, the Basic Rules of Navigation on the Danube, the Police Regulations for the Navigation of the Mosel and the Navigation Rules on the Sava River Basin and prepare proposals for harmonizing CEVNI with regulations of the river commissions;

(c) Prepare proposals for updating the provisions of the prevention of pollution of water and disposal of waste generated on board vessels;

(d) Evaluate CEVNI to identify gaps, challenges and bottlenecks that hamper the development of automated navigation and remote operation of inland vessels;

(e) Propose amendments to other resolutions of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport relevant to the navigation rules, signs and signals on inland waterways;

(f) Prepare the revised text of CEVNI for the consideration and adoption by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport;

(g) Prepare conclusions and recommendations in the form of a report to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport for consideration.

#### **II. Methods of Work**

2. The CEVNI Expert Group shall take into consideration the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways, other resolutions of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and other international and national regulations relevant to the navigation regulations.

3. The CEVNI Expert Group is expected to meet at least three times a year, annually at the Palais des Nations in Geneva (where possible also in hybrid form), in accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and according to the rules of procedure of its parent body, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport.

4. The CEVNI Expert Group will report on its activities at sessions of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and of the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation.

5. Preparation of documents (at least four per session), translation of documents in the official languages of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and simultaneous interpretation of its sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by ECE for all sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Each annual session should be one day in length but may be extended if circumstances require and resources allow.

6. Given the continuing activity on keeping CEVNI as a living instrument subject to regular updating and revision, the CEVNI Expert Group is established as a permanently working team of specialists.

7. Participation in the CEVNI Expert Group is open to all concerned United Nations Member States and experts. Concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental

organizations, as well as concerned inland waterway administration authorities and companies and related entities are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with the United Nations rules and practices.

### **III. Secretariat**

8. ECE will provide secretariat services for the CEVNI Expert Group.

## **Annex II**

### **Work Plan of the CEVNI Expert Group**

1. The CEVNI Expert Group could organize its work on the basis of two-year plans.
  2. The CEVNI Expert Group shall report to SC.3 on the accomplishment of the work plan.
  3. The work plans should include at least the following:
    - Preparation of amendments to CEVNI for the adoption by SC.3 on the annual basis
    - Preparation of the draft revision of CEVNI at least every six years
    - Updating the document on the application of CEVNI by member States and river commissions (CEVNI status document) after the adoption of the new revision of CEVNI.
  4. For the period 2025–2028, the work plans should include:
    - Updating the CEVNI status document: for the sixty-ninth session of SC.3 (2025)
    - Preparation of amendments to CEVNI:
      - Amendment No. 3: for the sixty-ninth session of SC.3 (2025)
      - Amendment No. 4: for the seventieth session of SC.3 (2026)
      - Amendment No. 5: for the seventy-first session of SC.3 (2027)
    - Preparation of the draft seventh revision of CEVNI: for the seventy-second session of SC.3 (2028).
  5. The detailed work plan for the forthcoming period should be prepared by the CEVNI Expert Group at its first session.
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