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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

(Sixty-fifth session, 18 – 20 February 2003,
agenda item 17)

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

Note by the secretariat

Note: The Inland Transport Committee, at its sixty-fourth session, adopted resolution No. 250 containing in its annex the text of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of Decisions taken by the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport (Rotterdam, 5 and 6 September 2001) as reflected in ECE/TRANS/139, annex 2. The Plan envisages, in particular, *“To consider the way for preparation, with the help of volunteer Governments concerned, of action plans (agreements, memoranda of understanding or other similar unilateral, bilateral or multilateral arrangements) envisaging elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territories of countries concerned”*.

Following the Plan of Action, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport, at its forty-sixth session, considered the way for preparation of such action plans and agreed on the text of a resolution of the Inland Transport Committee on Implementation of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) which is reproduced below.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN AGREEMENT ON
MAIN INLAND WATERWAYS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (AGN)

Resolution No. ...

The Inland Transport Committee,

Recalling the provisions of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN), in particular its Article 1 and annex I concerning the development and construction of an E waterway network,

Recalling also the main objectives and actions formulated in the Declaration adopted by the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport held in Rotterdam on 5 and 6 September 2001 (TRANS/SC.3/2001/10) and, in particular, the action called for under its item 1 of the Declaration: "Infrastructure",

Recalling further its resolution No. 250 containing in its annex the text of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of Decisions taken by the Pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport (Rotterdam, 5 and 6 September 2001) as reflected in ECE/TRANS/139, annex,

Recognizing the existence of a number of important bottlenecks and missing links in the E waterway network established by the AGN Agreement, as set out in the Inventory of the Most Important Bottlenecks and Missing Links in the E Waterway Network (TRANS/SC.3/...),

Recognizing also the importance of the wide and early implementation of the AGN Agreement through the elimination of existing bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular inland waterways of international importance as described in annex I to the Agreement,

Recognizing further that due to the nature of inland waterways their development for the purpose of inland navigation can usually only be undertaken by riparian Governments in cooperation with each other,

Encourages Governments and River Commissions to establish unilateral action plans and/or bilateral or multilateral agreements (such as memoranda of understanding, studies or any other similar bilateral or multilateral arrangements) envisaging measures aimed at elimination of concrete bottlenecks and completion of missing links on particular E waterways crossing the territories of countries concerned; and

Invites Governments and River Commissions to communicate to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe the text of such action plans and agreements or arrangements for circulation to all member States as addenda to this resolution.
