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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

Thirty-second session

Geneva, 5-7 March 2008

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

**FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE EUROPEAN CODE FOR INLAND
WATERWAYS (CEVNI): CHAPTER 1, “GENERAL PROVISIONS”**

Definition of high-speed vessels

Note by Austria, Lithuania, Romania, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the Danube
Commission

It is recalled that at the fifty-first session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) took note of the proposal by Austria to review the current definition of high-speed vessels in article 1.01 (cc) of CEVNI and asked the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) to further study the proposal at its next session (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para.22). The document below reproduces the Austrian proposal together as well as the comments received from other Governments and River Commissions. The Working Party may wish to decide whether the draft amendment to Article 1.01(cc) or, as alternative, an amendment to Article 6.01*bis*, as proposed by Austria, is acceptable.

REGULATIONS OF CEVNI FOR HIGH-SPEED VESSELS

I. AUSTRIA

1. According to the current definition in Article 1.01, lit. cc, a high speed craft is only a high speed craft “when this is stated in its inspection certificate”. Within the next ten years there will be vessels, which are capable of travelling at a speed greater than 40 km/h with an entry in the certificate and vessels without an entry in the certificate. All the new regulations for high speed craft will only apply to those vessels, which have an entry in the certificate. Other vessels will travel at the same speed, but without a second crew member in the wheelhouse, with more passengers than seats, and so on.

2. From the Austrian point of view, there are two possible ways to solve this problem:

- Either the words “when this is stated in its inspection certificate” are deleted in Article 1.01, lit. cc.

or

- Article 6.01*bis* is amended with a new regulation: “Only high-speed craft with an entry in the inspection certificate in accordance with article 1.01 lit. cc are allowed to travel at a speed greater than 40 km/h in relation to water.”

3. The Austrian delegation proposes to discuss this issue at the earliest appropriate occasion.

II. DANUBE COMMISSION

4. The Danube Commission agrees with the proposal to amend article 6.01*bis* by adding a new regulation: “Only high-speed craft with an entry in the inspection certificate in accordance with article 1.01 lit. cc are allowed to travel at a speed greater than 40 km/h in relation to water.”

III. LITHUANIA

5. Lithuania supports the proposal of the Government of Austria to delete words “when it is stated in its inspection certificate” in Article 1.01, lit. cc. The argument for this proposal is the definition of the high-speed vessel in Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels and repealing Council Directive 82/714/EEC.

IV. ROMANIA

6. The Government of Romania agrees with the proposal by Austria to amend article 6.01*bis* by adding a new regulation to state “Only high-speed craft with an entry in the inspection certificate in accordance with article 1.01 lit. cc are allowed to travel at a speed greater than 40 km/h in relation to water.”

V. SWITZERLAND

7. The current legislation on high speed vessels on the Rhine and Swiss internal waterways corresponds to the provisions of CEVNI. There are many high speed vessels on the Rhine and, to

our knowledge, the provisions related to them are sufficient. Therefore, we do not adhere to the Austrian proposal.

VI. UNITED KINGDOM

8. The United Kingdom suggests that the first option proposed by the Government of Austria may be preferable: deleting the words “when this is stated on its inspection certificate” from Article 1.01 (cc).

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