

Seventh meeting of the Common Expert Group on professional qualifications and training standards in inland navigation

Time and place

April 26, 2013. Warwick Barsey Hotel, Avenue Louise 381 – 383, 1050 Brussels, 10:00 – 17:00

1. Welcome words by Mr Dimitrios Theologitis, Head of Unit B.3 – Ports and Inland Navigation in DG MOVE

Mr. Dimitrios Theologitis welcomes the participants and a new discussion with respect to the ongoing discussion and emphasises the process of co-chairing with the CCNR, which is an added value to the discussion of the CEG.

It is mentioned that a number of activities are running in parallel like the public consultation. Thanks to the contributions with respect to the translations, the questionnaire is now available in French, Dutch and German. DG MOVE is still welcoming translations. It is mentioned that a short state-of-play with respect to the public consultation will be shared today. Furthermore, it is mentioned that the impact assessment and the evaluation process of current legal framework will be discussed which is a requirement to go through this procedure in order to make a legal proposal. As regarding to the concept outline, it is acknowledged that it is still in a draft format and the results of the public consultation as well as the results of the impact assessment and the evaluation process should be taken into account before the concept will be proposed by the Commission.

2. Presentation and discussion of the newest Draft of the concept outline for a legal measure on the recognition and modernisation of professional qualifications in inland navigation

DG MOVE is presenting the new version of the concept outline. Regarding the title, it is mentioned that the training aspect is not included anymore; The professional qualifications and the content of the competencies are still however relevant. Training will always be based on these mainlines. Another element is the fact that there are no annexes anymore, since annexes were only a temporary base to work with in the face of shaping the content of the proposal. Annexes are now turned into standards, since the real outcome resulting from the introduction of the legal instrument will be standards adopted by an expert group/committee. What was described before as an Annex is now a standard. DG MOVE explains that an expert group will have the task to work on these standards and keep them updated. A list of qualifications have been added which is necessary to be regulated on an EU level and have specified to some extent the modular system. Some definitions have been added as an outcome of earlier discussions. The EU wide recognition of the qualifications will only apply to the qualifications mentioned in the legal instrument.

DG MOVE clarifies that the goal is to create a different environment in order to be able to keep up to date the technical requirements. Under the auspices of the CCNR a committee

will be created with the only task of keeping the standards up-to-date. This would ease the procedure since there would be no internal discussions on formulation anymore. As regards to the sector, it would be easier since everyone will refer to the same standards. It is also clarified that standards will not be part of the directive and within the directive there will be only references to these standards.

DG MOVE is presenting line by line the concept outline and welcomes the comments of the stakeholders.

3. Information about state of play with regard to public consultation

A quick brief on the results of the public consultation received followed by DG MOVE. So far, 9 contributions have been received within one month. DG MOVE encourages stakeholders to complete the questionnaire and distribute the link to their networks.

4. Stakeholders input on the IA procedure and evaluation of Directive 96/50/EC

NEA/PANTEIA presents a short state-of-play and requests from the members of the CEG for necessary input in order to be able to finalise the impact assessment.

DG MOVE specifies that if no official data is available, approximations or other sources of information could have an added value.

5. Any other business and closing of meeting

Next meeting: 21st of June 2013, Brussels

List of participants

MINISTRY / ORGANISATION	MINISTRY / ORGANISATION
Department of Mobility and Public Works - Belgium	Federal Ministry of Transport - Germany
Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport - Belgium	Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology - Austria
Ministry of Transport, Construction and Maritime Economy - Poland	Romanian Naval Authority
Ministère de l'Ecologie, du Développement durable et de l'Energie - France	Ministry of Transport - The Netherlands
Ministry of infrastructure - Serbia	Ministry of Transport - Czech Republic
Ministère du Développement durable et des Infrastructures - Luxembourg	Maritime and Coastguard Agency - United Kingdom
Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development – Slovakia	Ministry of Transport and Communications - Lithuania
National Transport Authority Road, Railway and Shipping Office Shipping Department - Hungary	Inspector Inland Waterways Transport Executive Agency - Bulgaria
Directoraat-Generaal Rijkswaterstaat, Corporate Dienst.- The Netherlands	European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)
Swedish Transport Agency	STC-Group
CCNR (Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine) - ZKR	EDINNA (Education in Inland Navigation)
Sava Commission	European Barge Union (EBU)
European Skippers Organisation (ESO)	BDB - Bundesverband der Deutschen Binnenschifffahrt e.V.
NEA/ PANTEIA	STC B.V.
Port of Basel - Switzerland	Danube Commission