

PROTOCOL 22**Guidelines and Recommendations
for River Information Services
(RIS Guidelines 2002)
(2001-II-19)**

- 1 An increasing need for the exchange of information in the field of inland navigation can be stated. Information on the execution of the transport assists the skippers in the traffic situation, increases the security and the efficiency and improves the general conditions for the environmental protection.
- 2 Several independent services and systems for the improvement of information in vessel traffic and transport have been developed in the last years. Some of them are already in operation. A comprehensive framework collecting the particular modules has been missing so far.
- 3 This common framework has been created by international Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services (RIS Guidelines 2002) that were elaborated by an international expert group of the International Navigation Association (PIANC). These RIS Guidelines describe the principles and general requirements for planning, implementing and operating of information services for inland navigation and of related systems. They are applicable for the traffic and transport on inland waterways in connection with valid national and international regulations, recommendations and guidelines.
- 4 Numerous services relevant to RIS are already sustained now or in the near future, particularly radiotelephone, traffic posts, Internet, and Inland ECDIS. RIS has only the objective to summarise and to harmonise these services.

Resolution

The Central Commission,

having in mind the final declaration of the European conference of the Transport Ministers in Rotterdam in September 2001 on inland waterway transport and striving to promote as early as possible the creation of uniform systems of River Information Services on the Rhine river and on other European inland waterways,

being conscious about the necessity to establish an international basis for planning, implementing and operating River Information Services in order to have available harmonised standards that contribute to the improvement of safety and environmental protection,

on the suggestion of the Police Committee and relating to its Resolution 2001-II-19,

welcomes the development of Guidelines and Recommendations for River Information Services by an expert group of the International Navigation Association (PIANC),

recommends to its member states when planning, implementing and operating River Information Services to take as a basis the Guidelines and Recommendations (RIS Guidelines 2002) that are an Annex to this Resolution in English (reference form), Dutch, French and German languages,

charges its Police Committee and its Vessel Inspection Committee to consider these Guidelines when coming to decisions on River Information Services for the Rhine and further on to update these Guidelines with the help of its Working Group RIS and in co-operation with already existing international expert groups.

Annex: RIS Guidelines 2002 in English, Dutch, French and German languages (separate)