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## **INFORMATION NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive 2005/44/EC on harmonised river information services (RIS) on inland waterways in the Community - Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading (Strasbourg, 6 to 9 October 2025)

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the provisions of Article 294 of the TFEU and the Joint declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure<sup>1</sup>, a number of informal contacts have taken place between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to reaching an agreement on this proposal at first reading.

In this context, the Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN), Elissavet VOZEMBERG-VRIONIDI (EPP, EL) presented on behalf of TRAN a compromise amendment (amendment number 54) to the abovementioned proposal for a Directive, for which Tom BERENDSEN (EPP, NL) had prepared a draft report. No other amendment was tabled.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 145, 30.6.2007, p. 5.

## II. VOTE

When it voted on 7 October 2025, the plenary adopted the compromise amendment (amendment number 54) to the abovementioned proposal for a Directive. The Commission's proposal as thus amended constitutes the European Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto<sup>2</sup>.

The European Parliament's position reflects what had been previously agreed between the institutions. The Council should therefore be in a position to approve the European Parliament's position.

The act would then be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position.

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<sup>2</sup> The version of the European Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in ***bold and italics***. The symbol "■" indicates deleted text.

**P10\_TA(2025)0210****Inland waterway transport: River Information Services (RIS)**

**European Parliament legislative resolution of 7 October 2025 on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/44/EC on harmonised river information services (RIS) on inland waterways in the Community (COM(2024)0033 – C9-0014/2024 – 2024/0011(COD))**

**(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2024)0033),
  - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 91(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0014/2024),
  - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
  - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 24 April 2024<sup>1</sup>,
  - after consulting the Committee of the Regions,
  - having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the committee responsible under Rule 75(4) of its Rules of Procedure and the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 9 July 2025 to approve Parliament's position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
  - having regard to Rule 60 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (A10-0033/2025),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C, C/2024/4064, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/4064/oj>.

2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

**Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 7 October 2025 with a view to the adoption of Directive (EU) 2025/... of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/44/EC on harmonised river information services (RIS) on inland waterways in the Community**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 91(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>1</sup>,

*After consulting* the Committee of the Regions **■** ,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure<sup>2</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> **■** OJ C, C/2024/4064, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/4064/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> Position of the European Parliament of 7 October 2025.

Whereas:

- (1) Directive 2005/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup> establishes a framework for the deployment and use of harmonised river information services (RIS) in the Union. The deployment of RIS on inland waterways supports the safety and efficiency of transport by inland waterways, and ultimately *the sustainability and attractiveness of the sector*, by increasing the efficiency of inland waterway transport operations.

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<sup>3</sup> Directive 2005/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on harmonised river information services (RIS) on inland waterways in the Community (OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 152, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/44/oj>).

- (2) Since the entry into force of Directive 2005/44/EC, the inland waterway sector has benefited from the provision of harmonised RIS. However, the level of harmonisation between Member States varies, and the process of introducing the necessary specifications has proved to be lengthy. Additionally, the Commission communication of 11 December 2019 entitled ‘The European Green Deal’ calls for the further development of an automated and connected multimodal mobility. Consequently, RIS should be adapted to address those new challenges. Furthermore, the Commission communication of 9 December 2020 entitled ‘Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future’ proposes the revision of Directive 2005/44/EC as one of the measures to achieve the objective of promoting the creation of a truly smart transport system, efficient capacity allocation and traffic management. The Commission communication of 24 June 2021 set out an action plan entitled ‘NAIADES III: Boosting future-proof European inland waterway transport’, which states that in order to support the objective of inland waterways being part of a seamless system of harmonised RIS by 2030, revisions of the legal framework on RIS would aim to help close existing harmonisation and interoperability gaps with other transport modes, and contribute to improved data availability, reuse and interoperability of digital systems, in line with the Commission communication of 19 February 2020 entitled ‘A European strategy for data’. Those changes and developments, as well as the experience gained in the implementation of Directive 2005/44/EC, should be taken into account when adapting RIS.

- (3) In the interest of adopting a coherent approach to interoperability in the public service sector, when implementing the electronic single-point-of-access platform for RIS (the ‘*European RIS Environment*’) and other solutions that fall within the scope of Directive 2005/44/EC, the principles laid down in the European Interoperability Framework (EIF), that is set out in the Commission communication of 23 March 2017 entitled ‘European Interoperability Framework – Implementation Strategy’, pursuant to Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2024/903 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>, should be followed.
- (4) Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup> lays down requirements for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) to achieve the smooth functioning of the internal market, and aims to ensure that the same high-quality services are available and compatible with the systems of other transport modes along that network.

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/903 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (Interoperable Europe Act) (OJ L, 2024/903, 22.3.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/903/oj>).

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, *amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010* and repealing *Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013* (OJ L, 2024/1679, 28.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj>).

- (5) Given that the majority of journeys of inland waterway vessels are of an international nature, RIS should be focused on those inland waterways of Member States that form part of the TEN-T and that are *directly connected to another Member State's inland waterways that also form part of the TEN-T, and which are* thus of high importance for the Union **■**. Member States should be able to continue extending, on a voluntary basis, the RIS requirements to parts of their inland waterways network other than those that form part of the TEN-T to account for national specificities. *In a cross-border context, it should also be possible for one of the Member States concerned to provide RIS. The Member States' competent authorities should cooperate with a view to providing RIS on cross-border inland waterways.*
- (6) *In view of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, cooperation between the Union and Russia in the field of RIS is neither appropriate nor in the interest of the Union. As a consequence, cross-border cooperation on RIS with Russia is no longer a priority on the territory of the Member States.*
- (7) The experience gained from the application of Directive 2005/44/EC has shown that it is important to strengthen the technical specifications concerning the provision of data for navigation and voyage planning on inland waterways in order to improve the quality and timeliness of information provided to RIS users. The European Reference Data Management System (ERDMS) contains *reference data and code lists* necessary **■** for the proper functioning of RIS and is set up and *currently* operated by the Commission. **■** The operation of the ERDMS *could be transferred to a third party in the future.*

- (8) The availability to RIS users, during navigation, of up-to-date and accurate information regarding the condition of the fairway and specific points like bridges, locks and inland ports is expected to improve the overall efficiency of the inland waterway sector. RIS should therefore include up-to-date exchanges of data with semi- and fully automated management of infrastructure systems of locks and movable bridges as well as with port community systems of inland ports.
- (9) In order for RIS to allow for interconnection with the logistics chain, it is important that information is shared not only among the inland waterway transport users, for instance *through port community systems of inland ports and smart inland waterway infrastructure systems*, but also with systems and applications of other modes of transport. The maritime National Single Windows (MNSW) within the European Maritime Single Window environment (EMSW<sub>e</sub>), established by Regulation (EU) 2019/1239 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>6</sup>, should enable harmonised ship reporting across the Union *in maritime transport*. The exchange of traffic-related information, such as arrival and departure times, would ensure interoperability, multimodality, and smooth integration of inland waterway transport (*IWT*) with the overall logistics chain. The electronic freight transport information (eFTI), established by Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>7</sup>, should form the basis for the exchange of cargo information *on dangerous goods and waste* between RIS users where required. When necessary, RIS should *enable* links *with, and should make* information *available to, digital* systems and platforms of other modes of transport.

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<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1239 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a European Maritime Single Window environment and repealing Directive 2010/65/EU (OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, p. 64, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1239/oj>).

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2020 on electronic freight transport information (OJ L 249, 31.7.2020, p. 33, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/1056/oj>).

- (10) The exchange of information between inland waterway vessels and inland ports, for example on availability of port installations, operating times, or vessel and cargo information, is not always optimal, thus impacting the efficiency of IWT operations. Information on the availability of alternative fuel infrastructure in inland ports is of particular importance in promoting the environmental performance of the sector. In order to simplify and streamline the exchange of such information and improve the overall efficiency of the sector, it is important that *standardised interfaces be established* and become part of RIS and that the necessary technical specifications are developed.
- (11) The use of the European RIS Environment should streamline the *provision* of RIS, improve efficiency of IWT operations and reduce the burden on RIS providers and users. The *European RIS Environment* should support relevant services, be a central point for the exchange of RIS information within the inland waterways sector as well as with other transport modes, and therefore become the main digital backbone for the provision of RIS in the Union. Member States should designate one or more competent authorities responsible for operating *the European RIS Environment*. Those competent authorities are controllers, as defined in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>8</sup>, for the purpose of operating the *European RIS Environment*.

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<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>).

- (12) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the introduction of the **European RIS Environment**, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to establish the framework for the development and the functioning of the European RIS Environment. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>9</sup>.
- (13) *Implementing acts under this Directive should not be adopted by the Commission where the committee referred to in this Directive delivers no opinion, for example where there is no qualified majority in support of an opinion, whether positive or negative, and where the draft implementing act is not submitted to the appeal committee or where the appeal committee delivers a negative opinion. In accordance with the principle of sincere cooperation, Member States and the Commission should collaborate to swiftly set up the necessary operational characteristics, roles and procedures for the European RIS Environment.*
- (14) *Cooperation with third countries, in particular neighbouring countries, is relevant in order to ensure connection and interoperability between the European RIS Environment and the national RIS of those third countries.*

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<sup>9</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>).

- (15) *The European RIS Environment should provide for the possibility for RIS users to submit feedback on the application of this Directive and ensure that such feedback is transmitted to the Member State concerned.* Member States should *set up a simple and accessible* procedure ■ for handling *such feedback in a transparent and impartial manner.* Member States' authorities should cooperate *in the handling of feedback* involving cross-border elements, such as incompatible standards in reporting of vessel information, since 75 % of inland waterway transport operations includes international voyages. Analysis of the subject matter of the *feedback received*, as well as its frequency ■, makes it possible to identify the extent of compliance with this Directive, thus supporting the monitoring of implementation by identifying areas where implementation can be improved. It is therefore important that that information is collected and *provided* to the Commission *on* an annual basis. ■
- (16) The development of technical specifications should follow a set of principles, in particular the principles set out in Annex II to this Directive, in order to ensure the proper and harmonised implementation of Directive 2005/44/EC. Those principles should outline the main elements that each RIS component should include.

- (17) The requirements and technical specifications for RIS should ensure in particular that: ■  
RIS data *which constitute personal data under Regulation (EU) 2016/679* can be processed solely in accordance with a comprehensive, rights-based access-control system that provides assigned functionalities; all competent authorities can have immediate access to those data in accordance with their respective regulatory competences; appropriate technical and organisational measures are implemented to ensure that the processing by electronic means of personal data can be carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>10</sup>, including for the purposes of protection against personal data breaches; and the processing of sensitive commercial information can be carried out in a way that respects the confidentiality of that information.

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<sup>10</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj>).

- (18) In order to ensure the safe and optimal navigation of vessels on inland waterways, Member States should be aware of the **location** of all inland waterway vessels, including through the use of automatic identification systems (AIS) data. Member States should also exchange RIS-related information to increase the efficiency of RIS and reduce reporting requirements. Where the transmission and exchange of RIS-related information for those purposes **entails the processing of personal data, such as the processing of names or the processing of location data when such processing enables the identification, directly or indirectly, of a person**, Member States should ensure the lawfulness of the processing of those personal data in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and **Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>11</sup>, where applicable.**
- (19) In order to ensure that RIS users are supplied with the necessary information concerning navigation and voyage planning on inland waterways, and taking account of scientific and technical progress, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) should be delegated to the Commission in respect of amending the minimum data requirements set out in Annex I to Directive 2005/44/EC. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making<sup>12</sup>. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as the Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

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<sup>11</sup> Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2002 concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector (Directive on privacy and electronic communications) (OJ L 201, 31.7.2002, p. 37, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2002/58/oj>).

<sup>12</sup> OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_interinstit/2016/512/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2016/512/oj).

- (20) Where duly justified by an appropriate analysis and in the absence of pertinent and up-to-date international standards to ensure safety of navigation, or where changes in or the outcome of the decision-making process of the European committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation (CESNI) would compromise Union interests, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 TFEU should be delegated to the Commission in respect of amending Annex III to Directive 2005/44/EC in order to provide appropriate technical specifications for RIS, in line with the principles set out in Annex II to Directive 2005/44/EC and with the aim of safeguarding Union interests.
- (21) The experience gained from the implementation of Directive 2005/44/EC reveals that the lengthy period for introducing and updating the technical specifications laid down therein has affected the sector's performance. It is therefore important to change the process by which technical specifications are introduced.

- (22) Directive (EU) 2016/1629 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>13</sup> introduced a process based on technical specifications developed by the CESNI. CESNI, which acts under the auspices of the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) and is open to experts from all Member States, is responsible for drawing up the technical standards in the field of inland waterway transport. Experience has shown that CESNI has developed and updated technical requirements for inland navigation vessels in an organised and timely manner. Taking into account the expertise of CESNI and the experience gained from the implementation of Directive (EU) 2016/1629, a similar approach should be applied with regard to Directive 2005/44/EC.

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<sup>13</sup> Directive (EU) 2016/1629 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels, amending Directive 2009/100/EC and repealing Directive 2006/87/EC (OJ L 252, 16.9.2016, p. 118, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/1629/oj>).

- (23) In order to ensure a high level of safety and efficiency in inland navigation, to ensure the provision of RIS, and to take into account scientific and technical progress and other developments in the sector, the reference to the applicable technical specifications for RIS, namely the European Standard for River Information Services (ES-RIS), should form an integral part of Directive 2005/44/EC.

- (24) The Committee on boatmasters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway referred to in Article 11 of Directive 2005/44/EC has been abolished. In its place, the Inland Waterway Transport Committee, which possesses expertise in standards and technical specifications in the inland waterway sector, should assist the Commission in respect of RIS as a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011. Furthermore, this Directive introduces amendments to Articles 5 and 12 of Directive 2005/44/EC relating to the Committee procedure. Article 11 of Directive 2005/44/EC should therefore be amended to reflect those changes.
- (25) For the purposes of better regulation and simplification, it should be possible for Directive 2005/44/EC to make reference to international standards without duplicating them in the Union legal framework.

- (26) RIS was established in the Union in 2005, and since then considerable experience in its development and implementation has been gained by the Member States. Furthermore, the technical specifications necessary for the functioning of RIS are included in Annex III to Directive 2005/44/EC. In that regard, Article 12(2) of Directive 2005/44/EC should be deleted. In addition, by amending the scope of Directive 2005/44/EC to focus on the TEN-T, the requirement to implement RIS is applicable on the most important inland waterways, creating a reliable transport network. Article 12(3) of Directive 2005/44/EC should therefore be deleted.
- (27) In accordance with the principle of proportionality, it is necessary and appropriate for the achievement of the basic objective of establishing a framework for the provision of RIS in the Union to lay down rules on its set up, operation and technical specifications. In accordance with Article 5(4) of the Treaty on European Union, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve the objectives pursued.
- (28) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 and delivered an opinion on **20 March 2024**.
- (29) Directive 2005/44/EC should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1  
Amendments to Directive 2005/44/EC

Directive 2005/44/EC is amended as follows:

(1) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 1

Subject matter

1. This Directive establishes a framework for the deployment and use of harmonised river information services (RIS) in the Union in order to support inland waterway transport with a view to enhancing its safety, efficiency and sustainability and to facilitating interfaces with other transport modes.
2. This Directive provides a framework for the establishment and further development of technical requirements, specifications and conditions to ensure harmonised, interoperable and ***accessible*** RIS on inland waterways in the Union and to facilitate continuity with traffic management services of other transport modes ***through the use of standardised interfaces***.’;

(2) in Article 2, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

- ‘1. This Directive applies to the implementation and operation of RIS on all inland waterways and inland ports of the Member States that form part of the trans-European transport network, as specified and listed in Annexes I and II to Regulation (EU) **2024/1679** of the European Parliament and of the Council\*, ***and that are directly connected to inland waterways and inland ports of another Member State that form part of the trans-European transport network, as specified and listed in those Annexes.***

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\* Regulation (EU) **2024/1679** of the European Parliament and of the Council of **13 June 2024** on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, ***amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010*** and repealing ***Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (OJ L, 2024/1679, 28.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1679/oj>).***’;

(3) in Article 3, the following points ■ are added:

‘(i) “trans-European transport network” or “TEN-T” means inland waterways as specified in the maps set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) **2024/1679**;

■

(j) “European Reference Data Management System” or “ERDMS” means a single point of access repository (library) of reference data and code lists that are used by IT applications in inland waterway transport operated *under the authority of* the Commission; *it does not include the network data provided by the Member State in accordance with Annexes I and III*;

(k) “port community system” means an electronic platform for the exchange of information between public and private stakeholders to ensure smooth port and logistics processes;

(l) “smart inland waterway infrastructure system” means an electronic platform that supports semi- and fully automated management of inland waterway transport infrastructure in locks and movable bridges in the TEN-T and is operated by the public management authorities of inland waterways;

- (m) “**European RIS Environment**” means an electronic single-point-of-access platform based on national RIS information that provides **technical and operational** services for RIS users and **contains links to** electronic reporting according to the “once-only” principle;
- (n) “inland port” means an inland waterway port of the TEN-T core network or TEN-T comprehensive network, as listed and categorised in Annex II to Regulation (EU) **2024/1679**.’;

(4) Article 4 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 4

Setting-up of RIS

1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to implement RIS on inland waterways and inland ports falling within the scope of this Directive.

2. Member States shall develop RIS in such a way that the RIS application is efficient, expandable and interoperable so as to interact with other RIS applications and with systems for other modes of transport, while also providing interfaces to transport management systems and commercial activities.
3. In order to set up RIS, Member States shall:
  - (a) ensure that all relevant data for navigation and voyage planning on inland waterways are supplied to RIS users; those **network** data, as set out in Annex I, shall be kept up-to-date and provided at least in an accessible common electronic format ***in accordance with Annex III***;
  - (b) ensure that for all their inland waterways ***and inland ports*** of the TEN-T, in addition to the data referred to in point (a), electronic navigational charts suitable for navigational purposes are available to RIS users;
  - (c) enable, as far as ship reporting is required by national or international regulations, the competent authorities to receive electronic ship reports of ***all*** required data from ships; in cross-border transport, those ***data*** shall be ***made available in full*** to the competent authorities of the neighbouring ***Member State*** ■ before arrival of the vessels at the border;

- (d) ensure that notices to skippers, including on water level or maximum allowable draught, and ice reports of their inland waterways are provided as standardised, encoded and downloadable messages; the standardised message shall contain at least the information necessary for safe navigation and the notices to skippers shall be kept up-to-date and provided at least in an accessible common electronic format in accordance with Annex III;
- (e) ensure that *the network data in the European RIS Environment* are kept up to date by supplying all the necessary *network data in accordance with Annexes I and III* without delay ■ ;
- (f) ensure, *when available*, that at least traffic related information is *made available through interfaces following the technical specifications laid down in accordance with point 7 of Annex II, where applicable, to* electronic information exchange environments established by Union law and used in other transport modes ■ ;

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- (g) ensure that *standardised interfaces in accordance with Annexes II and III to this Directive are made available to* the port community systems of inland ports, including, *when available*, up-to-date *information on the* availability of berths ■ and of alternative fuel infrastructure, ■ and in particular the installations required pursuant to Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 of the European Parliament and of the Council\*;
- (h) ensure that *standardised interfaces in accordance with Annexes II and III are made available to* other smart inland waterways infrastructure systems for the purpose of managing inland waterway traffic.

The obligations referred to in this paragraph shall be fulfilled in compliance with the requirements and principles set out in Annexes I and II.

4. The competent authorities of the Member States shall establish RIS centres according to regional needs.

5. Member States shall *jointly* create, *govern*, operate, use and maintain a **European RIS Environment** that provides fairway-, infrastructure-, traffic-, and transport-related *services, and shall provide the necessary data. The European RIS Environment* shall be accessible for all RIS users and shall be the main platform for the exchange of RIS-related information. It shall contain interfaces for connections with systems of other transport modes and inland ports. Member States shall designate one or more competent authorities responsible for *the operation of the European RIS Environment. The European RIS Environment shall allow for the possibility of contributions from third countries whose waterways are connected to the European inland waterway network and which are willing to cooperate and provide their network data, provided that the data are of identical quality and format to that of Member States and that they adhere to the same level of cybersecurity and data protection.*
6. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts which lay down the operational characteristics, roles and procedures for the **European RIS Environment** and which identify its operating entity, based on the principles for RIS technical specifications set out in point 6 of Annex II, to ensure their uniform implementation throughout the Union. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 11(2).

7. For the use of the automatic identification systems (AIS), the Regional Arrangement *on the Radiocommunication Service for Inland Waterways (RAINWAT)*, concluded in *Bucharest on 12 April 2012*, in the framework of the radio regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) shall apply.
8. Member States, in cooperation with the Union, if appropriate, shall encourage boat masters, operators, agents or owners of vessels navigating on their inland waterways and shippers or owners of goods carried on board such vessels to fully profit from the services which are made available under this Directive.
9. The Commission shall take appropriate measures to verify the interoperability, reliability, *availability* and safety of RIS.

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\* Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU (OJ L 234, 22.9.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1804/oj>).’;

(5) Article 5 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 5

Technical specifications

1. In order to support RIS and to ensure the interoperability of services in accordance with Article 4(2), the technical specifications referred to in Annex III in line with the principles set out in Annex II shall apply and shall cover in particular the following areas:
  - (a) electronic chart display and information system for inland navigation (inland ECDIS);
  - (b) electronic ship reporting;
  - (c) notices to skippers;
  - (d) vessel tracking and tracing systems;
  - (e) compatibility of the equipment necessary for the use of RIS;
  - (f) operation of the *European RIS Environment*;

- (g) interconnection and exchange of information with Union data bases (ERDMS);
- (h) *standardised interface for* IT platforms of other transport modes ■ ;
- (i) *standardised interface between the European RIS Environment and port community* systems of inland ports and between the European RIS Environment and smart inland waterway infrastructure systems;
- (j) *data* for navigation and voyage planning on inland waterways.’;

(6) *Article 6 is replaced by the following:*

***‘Article 6***

***Satellite positioning***

*For the purposes of RIS, for which exact positioning is required, it is recommended to use satellite positioning and navigation systems, such as navigation services provided by Galileo, including the high-accuracy service and Open Service Navigation Message Authentication and the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) referred to in Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council\*. For the purposes of applications and services relying on Earth observation data, the use of Copernicus data, information and services is recommended.*

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\* *Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Union Space Programme and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) No 912/2010, (EU) No 1285/2013 and (EU) No 377/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 69, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/696/oj>).’;*

(7) Article 8 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 8

Competent authorities

Member States shall designate competent authorities responsible for the RIS application, for the international exchange of data, for the operation of the *European RIS Environment* and for the handling of feedback by RIS users. They shall notify those designated authorities to the Commission by ... [*two weeks* from the date of *transposition* of this amending Directive].’;

(8) the following Article is inserted:

‘Article 8a

*Feedback mechanism*

1. Each Member State shall ensure that an effective, *simple and accessible* procedure is in place, *building, where possible, on existing structures*, to handle *feedback from RIS users* arising from the application of this Directive.
2. The handling of *feedback from RIS users* shall be carried out in a manner which avoids conflicts of interest ■ . The handling of *feedback* shall be impartial and transparent and shall duly respect the right to freely conduct business.

3. *Feedback from RIS users* shall be *submitted through the European RIS Environment and be transmitted to the relevant Member States*. Member States shall ensure that RIS users and other relevant stakeholders are informed of where and how to *submit feedback*.
4. *Member States* shall *ensure that feedback from RIS users is handled in a timely and appropriate manner and that the information on its follow-up is provided through the European RIS Environment*.
5. *The European RIS Environment* shall inform the Commission, *on an annual basis*, of the *amount of feedback received and of the way that the feedback was handled*.’;

(9) Article 9 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 9

Rules on privacy, security of information *and processing of personal data*

1. Member States shall take the necessary technical and organisational measures in accordance with applicable Union and national law in order to protect RIS information and records against untoward events or misuse, including improper access, alteration or loss, and to ensure the confidentiality of commercial and other sensitive information exchanged pursuant to this Directive.
2. *Data that constitute personal data as defined in Article 4, point (1), of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council\* may be processed on the basis of this Directive only insofar as such processing is necessary for the operation of RIS applications, with a view to ensuring harmonised, interoperable and accessible RIS on inland waterways in the Union and to facilitating standardised interfaces with traffic management services of other transport modes.*

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\* *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>).’;*

(10) Article 10 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 10

***Delegated powers***

1. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 10a to amend Annex I, by updating and revising the minimum data requirements, taking into account the experience gained from the application of this Directive, and the technical progress in developing RIS technologies and applications.
- 
2. In the absence of pertinent and up-to-date technical specifications, or when technical specifications developed by the European committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation (CESNI) do not comply with any of the applicable requirements set out in the Annex II, or where changes in the decision-making process of CESNI or in other elements of the standard would compromise Union interests, and where duly justified by an appropriate analysis, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 10a to amend Annex III to provide appropriate technical specifications based on the principles set out in Annex II.’;

(11) Article 10a is amended as follows:

(a) paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

‘2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 10 shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from ... [the date of entry into force of this amending Directive]. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the five-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.’;

(b) paragraph 6 is replaced by the following:

‘6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 10 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or by the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.’;

(12) Article 11 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 11

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Inland Waterway Transport Committee.  
That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council\*.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

***Where the committee delivers no opinion, the Commission shall not adopt the draft implementing act and Article 5(4), third subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.***

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\* Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>).’;

(13) in Article 12, paragraphs 2 and 3 are deleted;

- (14) the following article ■ is inserted:

‘Article 12a

Monitoring

The Commission shall monitor the setting up of RIS in the Union and shall report to the European Parliament and to the Council by ... [5 years from the date of *transposition of this amending Directive*]. *The report shall include an analysis of the impact of this Directive on the level of integration of inland waterway transport in the overall logistics chain and shall examine the potential for new digital tools to increase efficiency throughout the TEN-T inland waterway network.*’;

- (15) Annex I to Directive 2005/44/EC is replaced by the text set out in Annex I to this Directive;
- (16) Annex II to Directive 2005/44/EC is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Directive;
- (17) the text set out in Annex III to this Directive is added as Annex III to Directive 2005/44/EC.

## Article 2

### Transposition

1. Member States which have inland waterways and inland ports falling within the scope of this Directive shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by ... [**three years** from the date of entry into force of this amending Directive]. They shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.

When Member States adopt those measures, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such reference shall be laid down by Member States.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main measures of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

## Article 3

### Entry into force

This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 4  
Addressees

This Directive is addressed to the Member States which have inland waterways falling within the scope of Article 2 of Directive 2005/44/EC.

Done at .....,

*For the European Parliament*  
*The President*

*For the Council*  
*The President*

## ANNEX I

### ‘ANNEX I

#### MINIMUM DATA REQUIREMENTS

As referred to in Article 4(3), point (a), in particular the following data shall be supplied:

- (a) waterway axis with kilometre indication;
- (b) restrictions for vessels or convoys in terms of length, width, draught and air draught;
- (c) operation times of restricting structures, in particular locks and bridges;
- (d) *predicted* waiting times at bridges, locks and inland ports, *in real time when available*;
- (e) location of ports and transshipment sites;
- (f) reference data for water level gauges relevant to navigation;
- (g) *location and, when available, current availability of alternative fuels infrastructure, including shore-side electricity supply.*

The information provided shall be kept up-to-date and, *when available*, reflect the real-time situation.’.

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## ANNEX II

### ‘ANNEX II

#### PRINCIPLES FOR RIS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

##### 1. General principles

The RIS technical specifications shall respect the following general principles:

- (a) the indication of technical requirements for the planning, implementing and operational use of services and related systems;
- (b) the RIS architecture and organisation;
- (c) recommendations for vessels to participate in RIS, for individual services and for the stepwise development of RIS.

##### 2. Electronic chart display and information system for inland navigation (inland ECDIS)

The technical specifications to be established in accordance with Article 5 for an electronic chart display and information system for inland navigation (inland ECDIS) shall respect the following principles:

- (a) compatibility with the maritime electronic chart display and information system (maritime ECDIS) in order to facilitate traffic of inland waterway vessels in mixed traffic zones of the estuaries and sea-river traffic;

- (b) the specification of minimum requirements for inland ECDIS equipment as well as the minimum content of electronic navigational charts with a view to the safety of navigation, in particular:
  - (i) a high level of reliability and availability of the inland ECDIS equipment used;
  - (ii) the robustness of the inland ECDIS equipment in order to withstand the environmental conditions typically prevailing on board a vessel without any degradation in quality or reliability;
  - (iii) the inclusion in the electronic navigational chart of all kinds of geographical objects, for example boundaries of the fairway, shoreline constructions, and beacons, that are needed for safe navigation;
  - (iv) the monitoring of the electronic chart with overlaid radar image when used for conning the vessel;
- (c) the integration of up-to-date depth information on the fairway in the electronic navigational chart and display of such information in relation to a predefined or the actual water level;

- (d) the integration of additional information, for example of parties other than the competent authorities, in the electronic navigational chart and display of such information in the inland ECDIS without affecting the information that is needed for safe navigation;
- (e) the availability of electronic navigational charts to RIS users;
- (f) the availability of the data for electronic navigational charts to all manufacturers of applications, when appropriate against a reasonable cost-related charge;
- (g) the integration of up-to-date information on the waiting times *at* locks, bridges and inland ports ■ and display of such information in the inland ECDIS without affecting the information that is needed for safe navigation.

### 3. Electronic ship reporting

The technical specifications for electronic ship reporting in inland navigation in accordance with Article 5 shall respect the following principles:

- (a) the facilitation of the electronic data exchange between the competent authorities of the Member States, between participants in inland as well as maritime navigation and in multi-modal transport where inland navigation is involved;

- (b) the use of a standardised transport notification message for ship-to-authority, authority-to-ship and authority-to-authority messaging in order to achieve compatibility with maritime navigation;
- (c) the use of internationally accepted code lists and classifications, possibly complemented by additional inland navigation needs;
- (d) the use of a unique European vessel identification number.

#### 4. Notices to skippers

The technical specifications for notices to skippers in accordance with Article 5, in particular regarding fairway information, traffic information and traffic management as well as voyage planning on inland waterways, shall respect the following principles:

- (a) a standardised data structure using predefined text modules and encoded to a high extent in order to enable automatic translation of the most important content into other languages and to facilitate the integration of notices to skippers into voyage planning systems;

- (b) the compatibility of the standardised data structure with the data structure of inland ECDIS to facilitate integration of notices to skippers in inland ECDIS;
- (c) an alignment with technical specifications for navigation and voyage planning on inland waterways to ensure coherence of provided information.

5. Vessel tracking and tracing systems

The technical specifications for vessel tracking and tracing systems in accordance with Article 5 shall respect the following principles:

- (a) the specification of the requirements concerning systems and of standard messages as well as procedures so that they can be provided in an automated way;
- (b) the differentiation between systems suited to requirements of tactical traffic information and systems suited to requirements of strategic traffic information, both with regard to positioning accuracy and required update rate;
- (c) the description of the relevant technical systems for vessel tracking and tracing such as Inland AIS (inland automatic identification system);
- (d) compatibility of data formats with the maritime AIS system.

6. ***Operational principles*** of the ***European RIS Environment***

The technical specifications of the ***European RIS Environment*** in accordance with Article 5 shall respect the following principles:

- (a) acting as a single digital window for inland navigation;
- (b) a harmonised, single point of access for up-to-date and, if possible, real-time information on fairway conditions for safe and sustainable navigation, voyage planning and port operations along the TEN-T;
- (c) enabling multi-modality transport chains while providing an adequate level of data protection;
- (d) high level of data accuracy for seamless data exchange among relevant RIS users along the TEN-T (within and outside the Union);
- (e) user-friendly interface with serviceable, useful and practical functionalities such as the ability to save and store profiles;
- (f) harmonised, single point of reporting in accordance with the “once-only” principle, also for international voyages;

- (g) link with other systems using information, communication, navigation or positioning/localisation technologies in order to manage infrastructure, mobility and traffic on the TEN-T effectively and to provide value-added services to citizens and operators, including systems for safe, secure, environmentally sound and capacity-efficient use of the TEN-T;
- (h) collect and report anonymised and aggregate usage data that can be used for the monitoring of the implementation of RIS, including at least the number of RIS users, data availability in the ***European RIS Environment***, connection and the number of exchanges with other ***digital systems or platforms***;
- (i) ***ensure cybersecurity***.

7. ***Availability*** of data ***for*** other digital systems or platforms

The technical specifications for exchange of data with other digital systems or platforms, in accordance with Article 5, shall respect the following principles:

- (a) build on the functionalities provided by the ***European RIS Environment***;
- (b) the facilitation of the electronic data exchange between RIS technologies and the databases and systems in use by other modes of transport, through appropriate data links and ***interfaces***;

- (c) the specification of the requirements concerning other digital systems or platforms as well as procedures for automated data exchange;
- (d) the real-time exchange of information in particular for time-critical data;
- (e) ensuring the secure exchange of information in accordance with a comprehensive rights-based access-control system;
- (f) anticipate a system exchange framework that will allow for future developments and links with additional systems as required, including exchanges with the future European Mobility Data Space and any other system that is designed to promote innovations in multimodality transport.

## I

### 8. **Data for** navigation and voyage planning on inland waterways

The technical specifications **for data** for navigation and voyage planning on inland waterways in accordance with Article 5 shall respect the following principles:

- (a) provision of up-to-date information at regular intervals and at least when significant changes in the fairway situation take place that can impact the navigation;

(b) cover at least the following information:

- (i) ***predicted*** waiting times at locks, (movable) bridges, inland ports;
- (ii) ***data on the European waterway network required for navigation and voyage planning on inland waterways and covering at least the minimum data requirements set out in Annex I;***
- (iii) water level, the least sounded depth, the vertical clearance, the barrage status ***if blocking navigation***, the regime, the ***forecast*** water level, the least sounded predicted depth **■** ;
- (iv) ice situation and the related navigability ***or other extreme weather warnings***;
- (v) operating hours of locks, (movable) bridges, inland ports.

**■**

(c) ***provision of information*** through inland ECDIS, notices to skippers and the ***European RIS Environment*** as appropriate.’.

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## ANNEX III

### ‘ANNEX III

#### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR RIS

The technical specifications applicable to RIS shall be those set out in *the latest edition of the European Standard for River Information Services (ES-RIS) adopted by CESNI.*’

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