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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	13057/26
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Subject:	Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the European Committee for drawing up Standards in the field of Inland Navigation (CESNI) and in the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) concerning the adoption of the European Standard laying down Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation vessels (ES-TRIN 2027/1), the European Standard for River Information Services (ES-RIS 2027/1) and a draft amendment to the Rhine Vessel Inspection Regulations (RVIR) - Adoption
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 10 September 2026, the Commission transmitted the above-mentioned proposal to the Council.
2. The proposal concerns the establishment of the Union position at the plenary session of the European Committee for drawing up standards in inland navigation (CESNI) on 16 October 2026 and at the plenary session of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) on 3 December 2026 in connection with the envisaged adoption of the European Standards laying down Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation vessels (ES-TRIN 2027/1) and the European Standard for River Information Services (ES-RIS 2027/1). At its upcoming plenary session the CCNR will also amend its Rhine Vessel Inspection Regulations

(‘RVIR’), in order to align the Rhine regulatory regime with Article 19 of Directive (EU) 2016/1629.

3. Both ES-TRIN 2027/1 and ES-RIS 2027/1 are capable of decisively influencing the content of EU legislation, namely: Directive (EU) 2016/1629¹ and Directive 2005/44/EC². The amendments to the Rhine Vessel Inspection Regulations (‘RVIR’) will, if adopted, produce legal effects for the Member States that are parties to the Convention. It is therefore appropriate to establish the position to be taken on the Union’s behalf within CESNI and CCNR in respect to the adoption of these three elements.
4. CCNR is an international organisation with regulatory competences for inland navigation transport matters on the Rhine. Four EU Member States (Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands) and Switzerland are parties to the CCNR. The Union is not a party to the CCNR.
5. CESNI was created on 3 June 2015 in the framework of the CCNR in order to develop technical standards for inland waterways in various fields, in particular as regards vessels, information technology and crew. It comprises experts of the Member States of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), and of the European Union (EU).

II. WORK WITHIN THE COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES

6. The proposal was examined by the Shipping Working Party on 4, 11 and 18 September 2026. The Shipping Working Party agreed to adapt the proposal, as far as relevant, to previous similar Council Decisions. The Presidency compromise proposal presented at that last meeting was accepted by delegations.
7. Following the agreement reached at working party level, the text of the draft Council Decision was revised by the Council's legal-linguistic services.

¹ 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).

² 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).

III. CONCLUSION

8. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to examine and endorse the draft decision, as set out in document ST 13308/26, prepared by the legal-linguistic experts, and transmit it to the Council with a view to adoption at a future session.
 9. The European Parliament will be informed of the adoption in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU.
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