

**PROGRAMME** | 23 SEPTEMBER 2025

## **WORKSHOP ON THE NEW MODEL OF INLAND NAVIGATION VESSEL CERTIFICATE (INVC)**

**Strasbourg (France) - Palais du Rhin, 2 place de la République**

On-site workshop, but possibility to listen online (input only via the chat)

### **Context**

A vessel operating on EU waterways or Rhine must carry either a Union inland navigation certificate or a Rhine vessel inspection certificate. Both certificates are issued by the inspection bodies and confirm the full compliance of the vessel with the technical requirements set in ES-TRIN. The model of vessel certificate is determined by ES-TRIN, Annex 3.

Following research work and online survey in 2019-2020, CESNI (European committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation) committed itself to review the model of vessel certificate to streamline the data fields to be recorded, reduce the administrative burden for shipowners, ease the work of the inspection bodies and police forces as well as facilitate future digitalisation.

The development of new model was approached from a data-driven perspective, leaving aside considerations of a possible paper format and layout. This resulted in a list of data fields and a corresponding content matrix. With a view to designing a corresponding data base the data fields are grouped in modules, roughly mirroring the structure of the ES-TRIN.

Building upon the foundation of list of data fields and content matrix, a new modular draft model of the vessel certificate has been developed. Only the relevant fields are printed and no longer a certificate with a fixed number of pages.

### **Workshop objectives**

The workshop organised by CESNI has the following objectives:

- Present the results of the work of CESNI to the inland navigation community
- Collect feedback from various stakeholders
- Discuss the different uses of the vessel certificate with various stakeholders
- Establish a viable base for further fine-tuning of the draft model of the vessel certificate



## Workshop on the new model of inland navigation vessel certificate (INVC)

**Chair:** Benoît Omont, Luxembourg delegation  
**Working languages:** French, German, Dutch, English

### Meeting sequence

After a presentation of the proposal and the perspectives from different users, a discussion in small groups (without interpretation) is foreseen. The small groups will need to address outstanding questions (as identified in advance by Member States and approved associations).

## TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

**8:30** *Registration*

**9:00** **Welcome**  
Raphaël Wisselmann, on behalf of CESNI Executive Secretary

**9:05** **Introduction**  
Benoît Omont, workshop Chair

**9:15** **Modernising the model of vessel certificate: motivations, principles and roadmap**  
Bernhard Bieringer and Benjamin Boyer, CESNI Secretariat

**9:35** **Different uses of the vessel certificate**

**9:50** **Perspective of the regulators**  
Raphaël Wisselmann, Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)  
Muhammed Elemenler, European Commission

**10:10** **Perspective of inspection bodies**  
Justine Godard, French delegation  
Christoph-Alexander Wernicke, German delegation

**10:20** **Perspective of vessel operators**  
Lijdia Pater-de Groot, EBU/ESO

**10:30** **Perspective of police forces**  
Thom Bijkersma, Aquapol

**10:40** **Questions and answers**

**11:00** *Coffee break*

**11:30** **Draft new model of vessel certificate – List of data fields**  
Bernhard Bieringer and Benjamin Boyer, CESNI Secretariat

**12:00** **Questions and answers**

**12:20** **Introduction and setup of small working groups**

**12:30** *Lunch*

**13:45** **Small working groups (no interpretation)**

**15:00** *Coffee break*

**15:30** **Feedback from small working groups**  
Rapporteurs

**16:15** **Conclusions and wrap-up**  
Benoît Omont, workshop Chair

**16:30** *End of workshop*