

## PROTOCOL 20

### **Guidelines and criteria for vessel traffic services on inland waterways (2006 VTS Guidelines)**

1. There is a growing need for exchange of information in the field of inland navigation. Information on traffic development provides the waterway users improved support during voyages, increases safety and efficiency, and improves the general conditions for environmental protection.
2. On the basis of direct or indirect visualisation, vessel traffic services on inland waterways and their systems are able to better evaluate navigation situations and to assist boatmasters. By providing information and instructions safety can be better ensured.
3. These VTS guidelines and criteria set out the principles and general requirements for planning, implementing and the operating of vessel traffic services on inland waterways.
4. On the Rhine, many services are already or soon will be supported, mainly using radio telephone, the internet and Inland ECDIS. Thus, the vessel traffic services on inland waterways (traffic centres) can be extremely useful and advice vessels as well as ensure coordination in case of accidents.
5. The guidelines and criteria, subsequent revisions (updates) and amendments to the guidelines and criteria will be published by the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine on its internet site ([www.ccr-zkr.org](http://www.ccr-zkr.org)).

### **Resolution**

The Central Commission,

considering its resolution 2003-I-22 on River Information Services,

recognizing that the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and the protection of the environment would be further improved if the establishment and operation of vessel traffic services on inland waterways was harmonized through international guidelines that are, as far as practicable, consistent with relevant guidelines of the International Maritime Organization (IMO),

taking into account the Guidelines and Criteria for Vessel Traffic Services in Inland Waters established by the International Association of Maritime Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) and those established by the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations,

recommends its member states to take the Guidelines and Criteria for Vessel Traffic Services annexed in German, French, Dutch and English language to this resolution into account when developing, implementing and operating vessel traffic services on inland waterways where the application of the Guidelines given in IMO Resolution A.857 (20) is not considered appropriate,

requests its Committee Police Regulation through its Working Group RIS to continuously adapt the annexed Guidelines and Criteria in cooperation with the above mentioned international organisations.

**Annex:** VTS-Guidelines 2006 in German, English, French and Dutch language (separate)