Report form the European Commission

Retained policy measures regarding the e-tools and state of play on preparation of EC Proposal for amendment of Directive 2017/2397

Danube Commission
Technical Affairs Working Group
November 10–12, 2026

Kristijan Lezaic, SNE

D3 Unit - "Ports & Inland Navigation"

European Commission – DG MOVE

Background, rationale, decision…

The general concept of the digital tools refers to "electronic documents with tamper-proof systems for automated recording of information and availability for remote access". The relevant electronic documents are:

- The **electronic Service Record Book** (e-SRB), including the certificates of qualifications
- The **electronic Logbook** (e-LBK).

The system prevents unauthorised access and flags any data modifications. The data registered may be available digitally and, to a defined scope, remotely accessible.

Following a comprehensive stakeholder consultation on e-tools, two policy measures emerged:

1. Establishing an obligation for IWT operators to use digital documents (i.e. electronic service record book and electronic logbook) and for national authorities to accept the digital documentation;

2. Establishing mandatory automated electronic recording of crew member presence, rest time, navigation time and journeys.

Third (adjacent and indispensable) measure

3. Establish an obligation for **creation of mandatory databases** for data collection on crew and vessels safety documents/data to **allow sharing of inspection findings and exchange of best practices between Member States** and **remote access** for competent authorities

The three measures are a necessary combination to enable the creation of a fully functional digital environment for IWT. As such, the two policy measures were included in all policy options, and received strong support from stakeholders. Their purpose is not to change existing processes but to enable replacing paper-based documentation with digital one. Stakeholders explicitly viewed this as a necessary evolution, with no viable alternatives. Third measure will give the architecture and sustainability to the system and enable the functioning of the system on EU level.

Transforming the measures into **draft** amendments of the Directive – plan

- To accommodate the measures, amendments will be needed in Articles : 3 (Definitions), 4(Obligation to carry a Union certificate of qualification as a deck crew member), 5 (Obligation to carry a Union certificate of qualification for specific operations), 10 (Recognition), 11 (Issuing and validity of Union certificates of qualification), 22 (Service record book and logbook), 26 (Competent authorities), 27 (Monitoring), 29(Prevention of fraud and other unlawful practices), 31(Exercise of the delegation) 32(CESNI Standards and Delegated Acts) and 36 (Phasing-in)

Transition period is planned until 31.12.2034.

tentative planning and steps

- Commission proposal – Q1 2027 (LT PRES)
- Negotiations in the Council Q1 2027 (LT PRES)
- Trilogues Q2 2027 (EL PRES)
- Publication of the amended Directive – (end of) 2027
- Delegated acts (to incorporate E-tools standards i.e. functional and technical requirements) – 2028

European Commission

Thank You!

kristijan.lezaic@ec.europa.eu

Unit D.3 Ports, Maritime security and Inland Navigation

European Commission