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Agenda item 5 (b)

**REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION
ON ROAD TRAFFIC (R.E.1)**

The use of mobile phones

Note by the secretariat

The members of WP.1 will find below a draft concerning the use of mobile phones on board vehicles, which has been revised in order to take into account the comments made during the fifty-first session. Once adopted by WP.1, this draft will be incorporated into chapter 1, paragraph 1.4 of the new structure of R.E.1 (see document ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2005/15/Rev.4[3?]).

R.E.1.

The use of mobile phones

New modifications appear in bold

Chapter 1. General rules concerning behaviour in traffic

1.4 The use of mobile phones

1.4.1 Context

Mobile phones **can be used in a motor vehicle for various purposes:** for example, notifying the emergency services in the event of an accident, phoning a breakdown mechanic, etc., by making use [...] of the numerous possibilities for stopping inside and outside built-up areas and on motorways.

All the studies have shown that there is a link between telephoning while driving and the increased risk of an accident. While at the wheel, a **driver** needs to give constant attention to the road and to traffic and not to make any gesture that diminishes his control of the vehicle or hinders driving manoeuvres. At all times he must be capable of performing easily and instantly the manoeuvres dictated by the circumstances. Holding a mobile phone prevents a driver from performing these movements correctly and safely.

For this reason, legislation in many countries prohibits and punishes the use of a hand-held phone, while tolerating the use of a hands-free mobile phone kit. Even in this case, however, some national laws provide for the driver's liability in the event of an accident. The risk of an accident increases even using a hands-free phone since a major part of the driver's attention is taken up by the telephone conversation. For example, he looks less often in the rear-view mirror or to the sides, and pays less attention to the various signs and to pedestrians, particularly in town, etc.

1.4.2 Recommendations

To avoid all risk of accident, countries should at least prohibit the use of hand-held phones in a moving vehicle, as is already provided for under the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (article 8). In addition, it should be recommended that drivers observe the following rules:

- To switch off their phone before moving off and to leave it on voice-mail;
- To stop in an appropriate place to telephone, listen to **or read** the messages **received, but never in a dangerous place, such as** the hard shoulder of a motorway.

These recommendations should be accompanied by information campaigns, if possible in partnership with the various phone operators, using appropriate slogans, e.g. “Drive or telephone, you choose”, to increase the awareness of drivers of the importance of respecting these rules for their **own** safety and that of other road users.

(Secretariat proposal) **It should also be recommended that users of mobile phones ensure that the name of the person or persons to be contacted in the event of accident is clearly displayed in the list of names stored in their phone, in order to save the emergency services from wasting time trying to find it. For example, in some countries, it is becoming common practice to recommend that users of mobile phones indicate the name of the person to be contacted in an emergency by using the internationally recognized acronym ICE (In case of emergency) or, in the case of several people, ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc.**
