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AMENDMENTS TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS

Other Business

Transmitted by the International Association for Natural Gas Vehicles (IANGV)

1. Natural gas, as an economic, environmental fuel alternative in the transport sector has achieved commercial acceptance in a growing number of countries around the world. In September 2003, the International Association for Natural Gas Vehicles (IANGV) submitted to WP.1a request to formalize road signage for compressed natural gas (CNG) fuelling stations. The concept of a harmonized road signage was embraced by WP. 1 in response to a growing worldwide natural gas vehicle (NGV) market and to the confusion generated by different fuelling station signage being developed and used globally. After much debate about the proposed artwork to be used, WP.1 decided in 2005 to adopt a signage design advocated by Germany and Switzerland.

2. In September 2007, a Consolidated Resolution on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2) update was issued by WP.1 (ECE/TRANS/WP1/112) including the provisions for CNG and for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) (included in section 1.13 and Annex 6). While this represents a substantial benefit for the NGV industry (and LPG, as well), the IANGV would like to legitimize through an international legal instrument the road signage developed by WP.1, in order to facilitate the global harmonization efforts of NGV industry including fuel station operators and owners.

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3. Therefore, the IANGV proposes that, on behalf of the worldwide NGV industry, WP.1 consider including the NGV fuel signage, reproduced below, in the Consolidated Resolution as part of the set of resolutions to be sent to New York to become part of the recommended amendments to the *Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals*.



Market Development Justifies Action

4. When the IANGV made its first request to WP.1 in 2003 to develop signage for CNG fuelling stations, there were just over 3 million natural gas vehicles and about 6,500 fuelling stations in 59 countries worldwide. Five years later, there are 64 countries worldwide with a total population of 8.8 million NGVs and nearly 12,700 fuelling stations, an increase of nearly 200 per cent for both vehicles and stations. In Europe, where there were 500,000 NGVs and 1550 fuelling stations in 2003, there are now 957,000 vehicles and 2,285 fuel stations serving CNG. Thus NGVs are becoming a fuel alternative and not just an alternative fuel in many parts of the world.

5. Established in 1986, the IANGV represents worldwide the interests of the NGV industry. Most of the IANGV's membership consists of other regional and national NGV associations, whose individual and corporate members are, in turn, members of the IANGV. There are also individual country delegations which are IANGV members. The IANGV has been a registered NGO with the United Nations since 1995.
