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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Convention on Road Traffic (1968):

Driving permits

Driving permits

Submitted by the Secretariat, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)

1. As requested by WP.1 at its sixty-eighth session, the secretariat, in partnership with ISO and FIA, prepared this document which contains options for a work plan outlining potential amendments to the provisions related to the translation of international driving permits (IDPs) in Annex 10 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic and paragraph 4, Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic. The work plan also covers the creation of an inventory of IDPs and other suggestions related to implementing IDP provisions pursuant to the 1949 and 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic.
2. If this proposal is adopted by WP.1, it will be necessary to separate the proposals relating to the IDPs pursuant to the 1968 and 1949 Conventions so that any formal proposals may be considered under each respective convention.

Issues:

1. In 2013, the secretariat contacted the Contracting Parties to the 1968 and 1949 Conventions on Road Traffic to request the authoritative translations of the text of the international driving permit (IDP) in the different languages of the issuing Contracting Parties. Based on the responses received, the secretariat found that:

(a) Only a small number of Contracting Parties is fully compliant with the requirements of Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention relating to IDPs;

(b) A significant number of Contracting Parties have updated the pictograms on the IDPs which they issue in accordance with the new provisions in Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention which came into effect on 29 March 2011; and

(c) A number of Contracting Parties were incorrectly issuing IDPs. For example,

(i) Issuing IDPs pursuant to both the 1949 and 1968 Conventions when a Contracting Party (party to both the 1968 and 1949 Conventions) should only be issuing an IDP pursuant to the 1968 Convention; and

(ii) Issuing IDPs pursuant to the 1968 Convention when a Contracting Party is party to the 1949 Convention only.

2. In addition, the responses received by the secretariat highlighted a number of inconsistencies regarding the IDPs issued pursuant to the 1968 and 1949 Conventions:

(a) The model IDP (as prescribed in Annex 10 in the 1949 Convention) has not been updated in the same manner as its corresponding Annex 7 in the 1968 Convention – that is, Annex 10 in the 1949 Convention contains only text without any pictograms; and

(b) The specifications for the mandatory languages into which Model 3 left hand page have to be translated differ:

(i) for the 1968 Convention, they are English, French, Russian and Spanish; and

(ii) for the 1949 Convention, they are the official languages of the UN (ie English, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese).

3. The secretariat also found that the IDPs currently issued pursuant to both the 1968 and 1949 Conventions have the following limitations:

(a) The documents contain no security features and are easily copied and altered. The lack of security features makes it difficult for law enforcement authorities to detect fraudulent permits from genuine permits;

(b) There is no register or directory of national motor vehicle agency contact details (telephone, facsimile, email or postal addresses) for the enquiry and exchange of information between national traffic police and licensing authorities to verify the validity of a presented IDP; and

(c) The suspension or cancellation of a driver's domestic driving permit (DDP) should result in an automatic cancellation of an IDP but this is not presently facilitated by the current permit systems within the Contracting Parties.

4. The above findings were presented by the secretariat at the sixty-eighth session of WP.1. The secretariat also made an observation regarding the continuing relevance of communicating the translations of model page number 3 (left hand page) to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as required by paragraph 4 of Annex 7 of the 1968

Convention in light of model page number 3 being largely comprised of pictograms since 29 March 2011.

Recommendations:

5. To address the issues mentioned in paragraph 2, the following is proposed:
 - (a) Paragraphs 2 and 4 of Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention be updated to include Arabic and Chinese (the other two official UN languages not presently mentioned) in the list of languages that Model 3 left hand page have to be translated into; and
 - (b) Harmonization of the model IDP contained in Annex 10 of the 1949 Convention with that contained in Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention.
6. In relation to the observation made by the secretariat in paragraph 4, at the time of the writing of this paper, the secretariat had enquired of the UN Office of Legal Affairs whether it would be legally feasible to include the translations into all six official languages in Annex 7, failing which the secretariat believes that it would be appropriate to publish the official translations on the UNECE website for the benefit of the Contracting Parties. The secretariat also considers that it would be preferable for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to receive a full specimen IDP issued by each Contracting Party, rather than the translations of model page number 3 (left hand page) only. Upon its receipt of full specimen IDPs, the secretariat could create an electronic database containing a copy of each IDP. WP.1 may wish to discuss if this database should be freely accessible to the Contracting Parties only or the general public as well.
7. If WP.1 agrees, the secretariat could prepare in partnership with a Contracting Party (to both the 1949 and 1968 Conventions), and with the participation of ISO and FIA, two formal papers containing amendment proposals reflecting the above recommendations in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, together with other amendments that may become apparent during the drafting of the proposed amendments, for the next session. The secretariat would simultaneously begin working on an electronic database of IDPs.
8. WP.1 may also wish to consider the following proposals related to DDPs as foreshadowed in relation to the security and suspension/cancellation issues mentioned in paragraphs 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c).
9. Noting that article 41(2) of the 1968 Convention requires that an IDP only be recognized if it is accompanied by a DDP, it is proposed that a sponsoring Contracting Party in partnership with experts from ISO and FIA, failing which a new informal group of experts to be comprised of ISO, FIA and interested WP.1 members consult and draft an informal paper on the integrity of the DDP to facilitate WP.1's discussion at the next session. This informal paper would amongst others include suggestions regarding a register or directory of national motor vehicle agency contact details (telephone, facsimile, email or postal addresses) for the enquiry and exchange of information between national traffic police and licensing authorities to verify the validity of a presented DDP.
10. Annex 6 of the 1968 Convention outlines the requirements of a DDP, including that it "shall take the form of a document" and "may be made of plastic or paper". However, Annex 6 does not prescribe any minimum requirements to protect the integrity of the permit. Therefore, the group assuming responsibility for the DDP amendments could consider the following proposal amendments:
 - (a) Article 41 be amended to make provision for the notification of the contact details of the issuing authorities for verification of the validity of a DDP; and

(b) Annex 6 be amended appropriately to incorporate minimum security requirements in the DDP to ensure that all DDPs will be able to withstand attempts at alterations and forgeries.

11. In addition, the group assuming responsibility for the DDP amendments could also consider corresponding proposal amendments for the 1949 Convention in relation to DDPs such as:

(a) Article 24 of the 1949 Convention be amended to the same provisions included in the updated Article 41 of the 1968 Convention; and

(b) Annex 9 of the 1949 Convention be amended to the same provisions included in the updated Annex 6 of the 1968 Convention.

Options:

12. There are two options for WP.1's consideration.

Option 1: Parallel IDP and DDP Work Plans comprised of parts (a) and (b) below.

(a) Proposed IDP Related Work Plan:

13. Sixty-ninth session (Sep 2014):

(a) Adoption of the Work Plan proposal;

(b) Identification of the partner Contracting Party and participating experts from NGOs.

14. Between sessions (Sep 2014 to Mar 2015):

Preparation of supporting documentation to seek approval of the Work Plan

15. Seventieth session (Mar 2015):

(a) Tabling of the 1st draft amendments to Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention

(b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments

16. Seventy-first session (Sep 2015):

(a) Tabling of the 2nd draft amendments to Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention

(b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments

17. Seventy-second session (Mar 2016):

(a) Tabling of the final draft amendments to Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention

(b) Tabling of the 1st draft amendments to Annex 10 of the 1949 Convention

(c) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments

18. Between sessions (Mar 2016 to Sep 2016):

- Preparation of the translations and documentation for adoption of the Amendment to the 1968 Convention by the UN General Assembly

19. Seventy-third session (Sep 2016):

(a) Tabling of the final draft amendments to Annex 10 of the 1949 Convention

(b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments

20. Between sessions (Sep 2016 to Mar 2017):

- Preparation of the translations and documentation for adoption of the Amendment to the 1949 Convention by the UN General Assembly

21. Seventy-fourth session (Mar 2017):

- Confirmation of adoption of amendments and effective date of implementation for both the 1968 and 1949 Conventions

(b) Proposed DDP Related Work Plan:

22. Sixty-ninth session (Sep 2014):

(a) Adoption of the Work Plan proposal;

(b) Identification of the partner Contracting Party and participating experts from NGOs.

23. Between sessions (Sep 2014 to Mar 2015):

- Preparation of supporting documentation to seek approval of the Work Plan

24. Seventieth session (Mar 2015):

(a) Tabling of the 1st draft amendments to Article 41 and Annex 6 of the 1968 Convention

(b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments

25. Seventy-first session (Sep 2015):

(a) Tabling of the 2nd draft amendments to Article 41 and Annex 6 of the 1968 Convention

(b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments

26. Seventy-second session (Mar 2016):

(a) Tabling of the final draft amendments to Article 41 and Annex 6 of the 1968 Convention

(b) Tabling of the 1st draft amendments to Article 24 and Annex 9 of the 1949 Convention

(c) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments

27. Between sessions (Mar 2016 to Sep 2016):

- Preparation of the translations and documentation for adoption of the Amendment to the 1968 Convention by the UN General Assembly

28. Seventy-third session (Sep 2016):

(a) Tabling of the final draft amendments to Article 24 and Annex 9 of the 1949 Convention

(b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments

29. Between sessions (Sep 2016 to Mar 2017):

- Preparation of the translations and documentation for adoption of the Amendment to the 1949 Convention by the UN General Assembly

30. Seventy-fourth session (Mar 2017):

- Confirmation of adoption of amendments and effective date of implementation for both the 1968 and 1949 Conventions

Option 2: Proposed IDP and DDP Consolidated Work Plan:

31. Sixty-ninth session (Sep 2014):
 - (a) Adoption of the Work Plan proposal
 - (b) Identification of the partner Contracting Party and participating experts from NGOs
32. Between sessions (Sep 2014 to Mar 2015):
 - Preparation of supporting documentation to seek approval of the Work Plan
33. Seventieth session (Mar 2015):
 - (a) Tabling of the 1st draft amendments to Article 41, Annex 6 and Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention
 - (b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments
34. Seventy-first session (Sep 2015):
 - (a) Tabling of the 2nd draft amendments to Article 41, Annex 6 and Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention
 - (b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments
35. Seventy-second session (Mar 2016):
 - (a) Tabling of the final draft amendments to Article 41, Annex 6 and Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention
 - (b) Tabling of the 1st draft amendments to Article 24, Annex 9 and Annex 10 of the 1949 Convention
 - (c) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments
36. Between sessions (Mar 2016 to Sep 2016):
 - Preparation of the translations and documentation for adoption of the Amendment to the 1968 Convention by the UN General Assembly
37. Seventy-third session (Sep 2016):
 - (a) Tabling of the final draft amendments to Article 24, Annex 9 and Annex 10 of the 1949 Convention
 - (b) WP.1 comments and changes to the draft amendments
38. Between sessions (Sep 2016 to Mar 2017):
 - Preparation of the translations and documentation for adoption of the Amendment to the 1949 Convention by the UN General Assembly
39. Seventy-fourth session (Mar 2017):
 - Confirmation of adoption of amendments and effective date of implementation for both the 1968 and 1949 Conventions.