



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
21 October 2014

Original: English

---

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

### Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

#### Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals

#### Second session

Geneva, 25-26 September 2014

## Report of the second session of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals

### Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Attendance.....	1–2	2
II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1) .....	3	2
III. Programme of Work (agenda item 2).....	4–9	2
A. Assessing internal consistency of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals and the 1971 European Agreement supplementing it.....	4	2
B. Taking Stock of National Legislation .....	5–9	2
IV. Other Business (agenda item 3).....	10–11	3
V. Date and Place of Next Meeting (agenda item 4).....	12	3
VI. Adoption of the report .....	13	3

## **I. Attendance**

1. The Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals (GE.2) held its second session in Geneva from 25-26 September 2014, chaired by Mr. Karel Hofman (Belgium). Representatives of the following UNECE member States participated: Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

2. The representative of a non-ECE member State also participated: Nigeria. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Union Road Federation, International Touring Alliance & Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (AIT & FIA), Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company and an independent consultant from the United States of America also participated as Observers.

## **II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1)**

3. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/3). Under "Other business", the Group agreed to include Nigeria's presentation on road safety in Africa and information from the secretariat about the relevant part of the "Paris Declaration" (announced during the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on 14-16 April 2014 in Paris).

## **III. Programme of Work (agenda item 2)**

### **A. Assessing internal consistency of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals and the 1971 European Agreement supplementing it**

4. The Group of Experts did not discuss this subject as a representative of Spain was absent and was unable to present the results of their preliminary research on the assessment. The Group decided to discuss this issue at the next session (or when the Spanish delegation is present).

### **B. Taking Stock of National Legislation**

5. The Group of Experts discussed its programme of work, including taking stock of the existing national legislation to describe and assess the degree of implementation of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals and the 1971 European Agreement supplementing it.

6. The secretariat provided an overview of a newly developed web-based application ("Road Signs Management System") which will be used as an electronic platform to collect information from all sixty-three Contracting Parties to the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals. The secretariat provided step-by-step instructions on how to input sign images and text. The secretariat also explained that the platform contains tutorials, but — should this prove to be insufficient — experts are invited to contact the secretariat. To date, the secretariat has sent out seventeen unique national access codes (to the country experts who participated in the first session). Shortly, the secretariat will contact the Geneva missions of the remaining Contracting Parties and invite appropriate government officials to participate in this exercise. The deadline for submissions for all sign categories was set at 16 January 2015. The experts decided to begin to analyse the country inputs at the next

session. The Group will review any late submissions at a future date. The secretariat was requested to examine if it was technically possible to provide “read-only” access to all experts. If it so, the secretariat will provide the read-only access to all experts as soon as possible.

7. The Group also agreed on a methodology of how to analyse the signs in the so-called “Convention category”. The analysis will be done “sign-by-sign” and will focus on deviation identification and description, deviation evaluation, recommendations and in-conformity indicators for images and text.

8. To help select a suitable methodology on how to analyse the signs in the so-called “Non-Convention category”, the secretariat and “A-mazing Designs” made presentations about various aspects of radar control road signs. The Group decided it needed more time to reflect on this subject. It was agreed to continue discussions on the methodology to be used to evaluate “non-Convention” signs at the next session. However, there was a tentative agreement that the methodology chosen should involve establishing a rationale for a new sign, assigning a category to the sign and – if appropriate - proposing its inclusion in the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals or Consolidated Resolution (R.E.2).

9. The Group was informed in the presentations by “A-mazing Designs” and “Easa Alyousifi and Sons Company” about inconsistencies and other type of errors that exist in the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals. The Group expressed its appreciation to both experts for their professional and insightful contributions. After discussion, it was agreed that the priority should be placed on analysing the conformity of road signs.

#### **IV. Other Business (agenda item 3)**

10. The Group took note of the statement made by the representative of Nigeria who explained the challenges faced by those working in the area of road safety in Africa. The Group appreciated Nigeria’s commitment to contributing to the work of this Group of Experts.

11. The secretariat informed the Group of Experts about an invitation by Ministers and high level officials to the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety to consider amending the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals following the publication of the report on “Signs and signals for cyclists and pedestrians” ([www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Signs\\_and\\_signals\\_EN\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Signs_and_signals_EN_2_.pdf)).

#### **V. Date and Place of Next Meeting**

12. The next meeting of the Group of Experts will take place on 5-6 February 2015 in Geneva.

#### **VI. Adoption of the report**

13. The Group adopted the reports of its first session (as this was not formally recorded in the report of the first session) and of its second session.

---