



UNITED NATIONS
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Other types of transport facilitation: an introduction

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Facilitating international transport: UNECE legal instruments

- Results of the UNECE process include 56 transport agreements and conventions
- Governed by well-established UN legal procedures
- Belarus a CP to 17 UNECE legal instruments in the area of transport
- Some facilitate international road transport and traffic safety in a major way

The Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (1968)

- Facilitates international road traffic in 67 countries
- And enhances road safety
- Through uniform rules for drivers and other road users
- And for road vehicles

A Systems Approach to Road Safety

- Firstly, the driver and perhaps the most difficult to influence (behavioural rules)
- Secondly, the vehicle (registration, technical and inspection requirements)
- Finally, the infrastructure (road signs and markings, traffic light signals)

The Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)

- Improves road safety: over 200 internationally agreed road signs & signals in 56 countries
- 3 categories of signs: danger warning, regulatory, informative
- Norms concerning shapes, dimensions, colours
- Norms for traffic lights, road markings, road works and level-crossings signs

DANGER WARNING SIGNS

equilateral triangle, ground white or yellow, border red



REGULATORY SIGNS

circular, white or yellow background with a red border

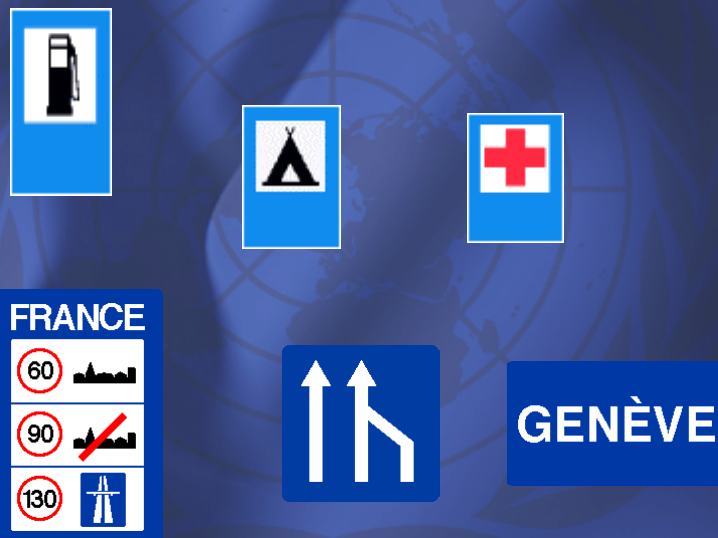


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7

INFORMATIVE SIGNS

rectangular, blue or green background, bearing a white or yellow rectangle with sign



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8

Recent Amendments (28 March 2006)

- New measures to enhance the safety and mobility of cyclists
- Use of handheld mobile phones prohibited while driving
- Improved visibility and legibility of signs
- Greater harmonization of domestic driving permits

7-8. Supplementary European Agreements (1971)

- Stricter road safety and vehicle registration norms
- E.g. maximum alcohol level in blood 0.5 mg per litre (since 28 March 2006)
- Supplementary agreement on road traffic adopted by 31 UNECE member states
- Supplementary agreement on road signs and signals adopted by 29 UNECE member states

European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), 1970

- Ratified by 47 countries, AETR enhances road safety and fair competition
- Uniform rules for crews of trucks and buses engaged in international transport
- Regulates rest stops, working time, etc.
- Monitors compliance (digital tachograph compulsory from May 2006 in the EU, by 2010 on all new vehicles subject to AETR rules)

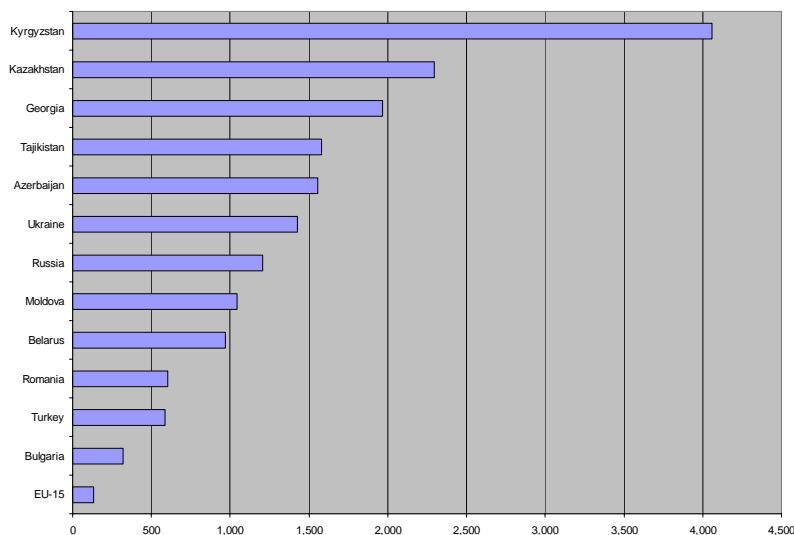
Agreement on the Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs (ATP), 1970

- Harmonized standards for preserving the quality of food, adopted by 42 countries
- Refrigerating equipment must be certified
- Reciprocal recognition of national certificates
- Facilitates international trade in perishable foodstuffs

Effective implementation matters

- Better implementation of conventions likely to require higher government spending: $G \uparrow$
- If effective, it stimulates FDI, tourism, productivity & long-term growth, raising government revenues: $GDP \uparrow \rightarrow R \uparrow$
- It also reduces public spending on healthcare & disability pensions: $G \downarrow$
- Overall benefits exceed costs: $TB > TC$

People killed per million vehicles, 2004



Conclusions

- Belarus a CP to major UNECE transport conventions
- These include the key legal instruments that facilitate international transport by road and road safety
- Effective implementation is key and should be further improved

Thank you for your attention!

Detailed information (incl. English, French and Russian versions of international transport agreements and conventions) is available on the UNECE Transport Division website:
www.unece.org/trans