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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

(Thirty-seventh session, 10–14 September 2001,
agenda item 5 (b))

**REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTIONS ON
ROAD TRAFFIC (R.E.1) AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS (R.E.2)**

Safety of skateboarders, in-line skaters, roller skaters, etc.

Note by the secretariat

At its thirty-sixth session, the Working Party took note of information on safety provisions for skateboarders, in-line skaters, roller skaters, etc. received from 23 member countries and contained in documents TRANS/WP.1/2000/24 and TRANS/WP.1/2001/10. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a note on the responses received for its 37th session and decided that it would establish a small group to prepare a draft recommendation for R.E.1 based on the secretariat document (TRANS/WP.1/76, para. 26).

The note by the secretariat appears below.

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1. The following ECE member countries provided information: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom.
 2. The present note applies to persons using skateboards, roller skates, in-line skates, skis with wheels and other similar devices.
 3. Most countries do not have special provisions in their national legislation which address this group of road users. A few countries stated that they do have legislation applying to this group and a few countries have legislation which specifically defines this group as pedestrians.
 4. Most countries stated that this group was considered as pedestrians.
 5. The following recommendations have been drawn from the responses. Skateboarders, roller skaters, in-line skaters, etc. should be treated as pedestrians and should respect the traffic rules applicable to pedestrians. They should use the pavement (sidewalk) and should not disturb the movement of ordinary pedestrians. If there is no pavement, they may use an appropriate verge or part of the road reserved for pedestrians. When using the verge or the carriageway, they should keep to the side opposite to the direction of traffic, except if they are moving faster than the speed of walking. In that case, they should keep to the other side if appropriate. They may also use a cycle track or path but should not disturb the movement of cyclists. As a general rule, they should only be used on roads with low traffic volume.
 6. Skateboarders, roller skaters, in-line skaters, etc. should wear appropriate protective equipment including gloves, elbow/knee pads and helmets. They should also wear clothing or accessories which make them more visible such as arm bands or belts made of fluorescent materials.
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