



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.1/2002/15  
16 January 2002

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety  
(Thirty-eighth session, 19-22 March 2001,  
agenda item 4 (c) (iii))

**AMENDMENTS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1968 CONVENTIONS ON ROAD  
TRAFFIC AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS AND THE 1971 EUROPEAN  
AGREEMENTS SUPPLEMENTING THEM**

**Mobile phones**

Transmitted by the small group on mobile phones

Introduction

1. At its thirty-seventh session (10-14 September 2001) the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety started examination of the proposal presented in document TRANS/WP.1/2001/30. In that document concern was expressed that especially the use of mobile phones interferes with the driver's attention to his driving task.
2. The majority of members within WP.1 were in favour of an amendment in the Vienna Convention regarding the use of mobile phones, but doubts were expressed about extending the proposal to cover driver distracting equipment as mentioned in document TRANS/WP.1/2001/30. In this regard, it was recommended that the activities within the European Union concerning the "Recommendation by the European Commission to member states and industry on safe and efficient in-vehicle information and communication systems: European Statement of Principles on Human Machine Interface" should be taken into account.

3. The small group suggests the following alternatives for an amendment of Article 8, para. 5 of the Vienna Convention:

**Alternative A**

It is forbidden for a driver of any vehicle to use a mobile- or car phone. This does not apply, if for the use of the mobile- or car phone it must neither be taken up nor held or wedged. This further does not apply if the vehicle is stopped and if, in the case of a motor vehicle, the engine is switched off.

**Alternative B**

It is recommended that domestic legislation should clearly state that mobile or car phones may be used by drivers of vehicles only if this use has no negative bearing on traffic safety. In any case, legislation should prohibit the use by the driver of a mobile- or car phone that is to be taken up, hand-held or wedged between head and shoulder.

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