

Role of UNECE WP1 on Road Traffic Safety in the development of national frameworks for road safety

Luciana Iorio

Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Department for Land Transport - via G. Caracci 36, 00157
Rome, Italy - Email: luciana.iorio@trasporti.gov.it

ABSTRACT

The complex environment of our world, with its challenges to the economy, has resulted in an increasing demand for mobility.

Thus, the need to create a safe mobility culture has become imperative and more important than ever before.

This should not be seen as a setback, but as an opportunity to create a visibly different approach to road safety and a trustworthy mobility.



In this context, the UNECE Working Group on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) uses its valuable background of the Vienna Conventions to articulate a new approach to Road Safety. An approach more responsive to change, able to compel a common operative vision and which will not only help build a shared strategy, but also - through collaborations among administrations, governments, and international institutions - be able to secure early wins and to speed up the process of making road safety a theme of both reform and relentless action, acknowledged worldwide.

Moreover, we all know that in this framework the common intent, the paramount objective, is to promote actions to save lives by cutting the casualties on the roads. But besides that, we must aim to promote the right actions to create a safer, faster and reliable mobility by offering the legal tools and the operative guidelines.

It is well known that it is important to invest in infrastructures, particularly in roads, tunnels and bridges, to enhance road transport reliability and safety and to match the growing traffic demand.

But it is also true that a common vision for a safer mobility will come true only by sharing the common, internationally recognised set of legal recommendations and technical standards. In this context the Vienna Conventions, such as the one on Road traffic and Road sign and Signals

respond to the need of having a valuable guideline while amending and updating the national traffic code.

It is the way for a reciprocal progression, where also outstanding expertise and knowledge can be used to update the resolutions and the Conventions themselves making every country part of a unique mutual process highly beneficial for the road transport world.

And this, indeed, will really make the difference. It will offer a road safety culture true and visible not only through a mere legislative process but through a much more complex synergic action, involving policy makers and stakeholders, which will lead to safer use of vehicles, of the means of transport and an efficient transport network, connecting people and economies.

The occasion of the Moscow Conference should be seen as an excellent clustering moment for worldwide recognised efforts which will make the next decade of action a fruitful time. It is a primary task nowadays to move together, to build our development goal of a safer mobility on the road, an essential step to economic growth and general welfare.