



**Conference on Improving Road Traffic Safety in South-Eastern Europe
Setting Regional and National Road Traffic Casualty Reduction Targets**

Hosted by Evia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association with the support of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Greece

25-26 June 2009, Halkida, Greece



The Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and Industry

DRAFT DECLARATION

We, the representatives of the Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCIs) participating in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Conference on improving road safety in South-Eastern Europe,

Aware that road traffic injuries are a major social, economic, development and public health problem and a leading cause of death and injury around the world responsible for the death of 1.2 million people a year and injury and disability of millions (more that 80% of all these casualties taking place in the developing countries), and that in spite recent improvement, the number of human casualties remains at unacceptable levels in our country and in Europe as a whole,

Also aware that road traffic injuries lie at the root of not only human suffering, but also overwhelming costs, running into hundreds of billions of dollars annually (estimated at 2% of world GDP), which may overtake the total development aid budget in low and middle income countries,

Underlining that the risks of road accidents are known and can be prevented and that these risks include excessive speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, failure to use seat-belts and helmets, poorly designed or insufficiently maintained road infrastructure, and the use of vehicles that are substandard, poorly maintained or lacking safety devices,

Acknowledging the conclusions of the Conference, the work and the continuing commitment of the UNECE to global action in the elaboration of global safety-related legal instruments, technical regulations and

amendments to the international Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals,

Encouraged by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions related to road safety and in particular resolution 62/244 of 31 March 2008 on improving global road safety reaffirming the importance of addressing global road safety issues, as well as the need for further international cooperation, and inviting States to strengthen commitment through multi-sectoral collaboration,

Understanding the far-reaching implications of the present situation of road safety on many social, economic and health aspects, as well as the significance of partnerships between the public and private sectors in order to improve this situation,

Hereby resolve to:

1. Support the work of the UNECE in increasing its road safety activities and advocating for higher global political commitment to road safety;
2. Use our network in Greece to collaborate with competent authorities and key stakeholders to support promotional campaigns and raising awareness aimed at sensitizing road users to improve their behaviour, reminding them their responsibilities as members of the society and calling them not to drive with excessive speed, not to drink and drive, use safety belts, child restraints and helmets and respect the vulnerable road users, such as cyclist and pedestrians;
3. Encourage the improvement of road infrastructure by identifying and supporting efforts aimed at eliminating of accident black spots, introducing audit methods, urban safety management and speed-moderation techniques, and good practice guidelines for level-crossings;
4. Advocate for specific measures improving road safety, namely, new methods and continuous training for private and commercial drivers, improved police checks and road user awareness campaigns and continuous road safety education;
5. Support proper implementation and oversight of road safety regulations and best practices, done so by introduction of a road safety data collection, analysis and dissemination to understand the causes,

circumstances and consequences of road accidents that may aid prevention or mitigation;

6. Consider establishing a funding mechanism designed to support efforts for improved road safety in Greece and our regions, especially actions concerning the main risk factors;
7. Encourage competent authorities and key stakeholders in Greece and other South East European Countries to take actions and agree on setting common road safety goals, targets and indicators;
8. Partner with UNECE to support it as the international Road Safety Forum for regulatory work and for exchange of best practices and development of road safety policy
9. Invite South Eastern European Governments to fully implement the UNECE road safety related legal instruments and to participate in monitoring activities initiated by UNECE

And call upon authorities and other stakeholders at national and regional level to build and maintain a high level of awareness, as well as increase cooperation with established campaigns aimed at greater visibility of road safety activities in our country.

Adopted in Chalkida, Greece, on 25 June 2009