

**UNECE****United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

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## **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES JOINS FOUR TRANSPORT CONVENTIONS**

On 10 January 2007 the United Arab Emirates acceded to the following United Nations Conventions on transport: the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, of 1968, known as the Vienna Conventions; the Convention on Road Traffic, of 1949, known as the Geneva Convention; and the Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles, of 1954.

The accession of the United Arab Emirates to the Vienna Conventions brings the total number of Contracting Parties to those instruments to 66 and 55 respectively. Accession of the UAE to the Geneva Convention brings the number of Contracting Parties to that Convention to 93, while accession to the Temporary Importation Convention brings the total number of Parties to this Convention to 81.

The Vienna Conventions provide Governments with a harmonized legal and technical basis for their national highway codes and ensure a high level of road safety in the countries that implement them. The UNECE Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) has recently amended these two Conventions in order to introduce new road safety provisions or strengthen existing ones. A new provision introduced was, for example, the prohibition of the use of a handheld mobile phone while driving.

The Convention on the Private Importation of Private Road Vehicles allows the temporary admission in a country Party to the Convention of private road vehicles registered in another country Party to the Convention without payment of import duties or taxes for the vehicles.

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