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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
(Thirty-ninth session, 23-26 September 2002,
agenda item 3 (b))

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

Incorporation of the distinguishing sign on the registration plate

The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) at its thirty-eighth session took the following decisions on the basis of the proposal submitted in informal document No. 5:

- When a distinguishing sign is incorporated into the registration plate, it shall be placed on the far left or right of the plate, but preferably on the left;
- When a regional or local symbol or emblem is displayed on the registration plate in addition to the national distinguishing sign, that sign shall obligatorily be placed on the far left of the plate;
- When a registration plate is affixed to the front of the vehicle, it shall be identical to the rear plate;

and invited the Ad hoc Legal Expert Group to submit a proposed text for the thirty-ninth session incorporating the above decisions.

The secretariat has prepared the following proposals for the purpose of information:

“**3.1** *Already adopted* (see document TRANS/WP.1/2002/23)

3.2 The distinguishing sign shall be displayed on the far left or right of the rear registration plate, but preferably on the left or the far upper left on plates where the number takes up two lines. When a regional or local symbol or emblem is displayed on the registration plate in addition to the distinguishing sign of the State of registration, the national distinguishing sign shall obligatorily be placed on the far left of the plate. Failing this, in order to be permitted in international traffic the vehicle shall be provided with the device referred to in paragraph 2 of this annex.

3.3 The distinguishing sign may be supplemented by the flag or emblem of the State of registration or the emblem of the regional economic integration organization which the country belongs to. The flag or emblem shall be positioned so that it cannot impair the legibility of the distinguishing sign and shall preferably be placed above it.

3.4 The distinguishing sign shall be positioned so as to be easily identifiable and so that it cannot be confused with the registration number or impair its legibility. The distinguishing sign shall therefore be at least of a different colour from the registration number, or have a different background colour to that reserved for the registration number, or be clearly separated, preferably by a line, from the registration number.

3.5 *Former paragraph 3.4 already adopted, included here with a minor amendment in bold:*

‘For motorcycles and their trailers and/or for registration plates taking up two lines, the size of the letters of the distinguishing sign as well as, where applicable, the size of the national flag or emblem **of the State of registration** or the symbol of the regional economic integration organization which the country belongs to may be appropriately modified.’

3.6 The provisions of this paragraph shall apply under the same conditions to the front registration plate of the vehicle when this plate is obligatory. Its contents shall be identical to those of the rear plate.”
