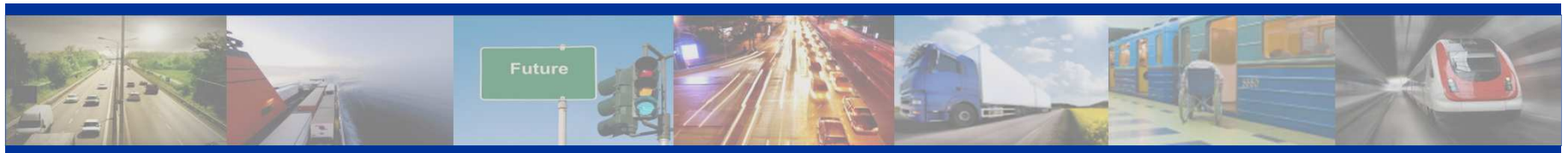




United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Transport Division

United Nations Road Safety Conventions

Robert Nowak, UNECE secretariat
International Treaties Seminar, Road Safety
5 June 2014, New York City





United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)





Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)

- **The only inter-governmental permanent body in the UN system that focuses on improving road safety**
- **Guardian of UN legal instruments in the area of road safety**





Legal instruments managed by WP.1

1. Convention on Road Traffic, of 19 September 1949
2. Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, of 19 September 1949
3. European Agreement on the Application of Article 23 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic concerning the Dimensions and Weights of Vehicles Permitted to Travel on Certain Roads of the Contracting Parties, of 16 September 1950
4. Convention on Road Traffic, of 8 November 1968
5. Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 8 November 1968
6. European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic (1968), of 1 May 1971
7. European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968), of 1 May 1971
8. Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 1 March 1973
9. Agreement on Minimum Requirements for the Issue and Validity of Driving Permits (APC), of 1 April 1975

General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/68/269, April 2014

12. *Also reaffirms* the role and importance of the United Nations legal instruments on road safety, such as the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic,⁶ the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic,⁷ the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals⁸ and the 1958 and 1998 agreements of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, in facilitating road safety at the global, regional and national levels, and encourages Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming contracting parties and, beyond accession, applying, implementing and promoting their provisions or safety regulations, as well as adhering to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;⁹

13. *Requests* the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and other stakeholders, to continue the activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Decade of Action;

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 125, No. 1671.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1042, No. 15705.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1091, No. 16743.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.





UNECE

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Français Русский

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Meetings and Events

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)

Expert Group on Safety at Level Crossings

Expert Group on Road Signs and Signals

Events and Workshops

Legal Instruments

Texts and Status

WP.1 sets of best practices on road traffic and road signs and signals

Distinguishing Signs of Vehicles

Special Projects

UNDA Project on Setting Road Safety Targets

Global Road Safety

UNECE Road Traffic Legislation Database

National Developments

Statistical Data Online

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Establishment of WP.1

Level Crossing Safety Film

WP.1 on Film

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Home

The UNECE pioneered road safety activities in the United Nations system with the establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on the prevention of road accidents in 1950. In 1988, the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1), an intergovernmental body, was established.

Today, WP.1 remains the only permanent body in the United Nations system that focuses on improving road safety ([see road safety film](#)). Its primary function is to serve as guardian of the United Nations legal instruments aimed at harmonizing traffic rules. [More...](#)



Meetings and Events

Road Safety Treaty Day
(05 June 2014)

(WP.1) Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (69th session, Geneva)
(22 - 24 September 2014)

(WP.1) Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals (2nd session)
(25 - 26 September 2014)

News

The survey of automatic speed measurement and control is now available online. See also the Word version [\[PDF\]](#).

The Road Safety Treaty Day will be held on 5 June 2014, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York City. More information [here](#).

The Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in partnership with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India and Institute of Road Traffic Education, and in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, organized an inaugural "Europe - Asia Road Safety Forum" on 4 December 2013 followed by a session of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) on 5-6 December 2013 in New Delhi. For more information, please [click here](#).

23 September 2013

The UNECE and the International Center for Alcohol Policies (ICAP [\[PDF\]](#)) have launched the e-book on "Regional Perspectives on preventing alcohol-related road crashes involving vulnerable road users".

All news

Latest Documents

Bilan définitif 2013 accidentologie routière [\[PDF\]](#)
France

UNECE Treaty Day 2014-Programme [\[PDF\]](#)
Programme of the Treaty Day, NYC June 2014

Nat Dev-2014-France CP Avril [\[PDF\]](#)
Hausse sensible de la mortalité en avril 2014 (+8,1%)

Nat Dev-2014-France Barometre Avril [\[PDF\]](#)

All documents

Meetings and Events

May 2014

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Information for delegates



Preventing alcohol-related road crashes





Road safety at UNECE - film

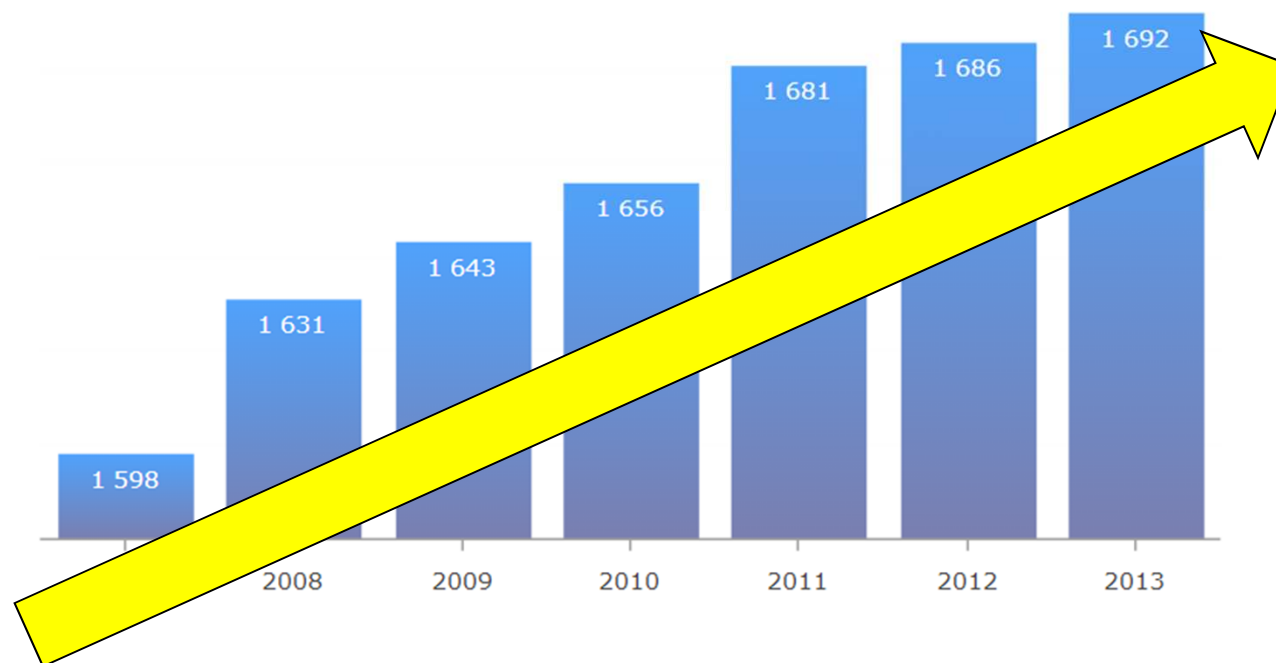




58 Conventions, 1692 Contracting Parties

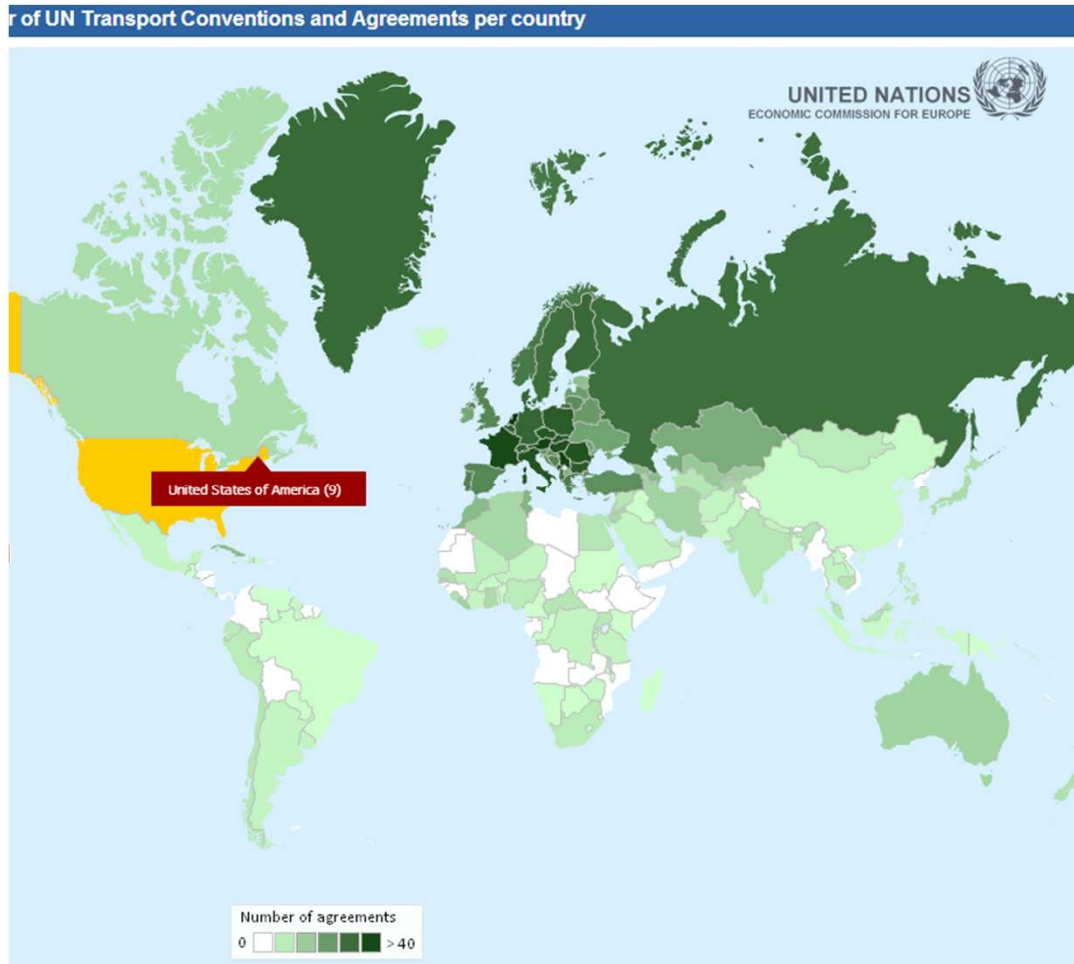
Contracting Parties

Number of Contracting Parties to UN Legal Instruments on Transport





UNECE Transport Division



- International platform
- Regulatory
- Analytical
- Technical assistance

where global solutions are shaped for you₉



Status at 27/02/2014

OTHER EUROPEAN STATES



UNECE – a 360 degree approach to road safety



- Traffic rules
- Signs and signals
- Road infrastructure
- Construction and periodic inspection of vehicles
- Driving times and rest periods for professional drivers
- Dangerous goods





UNECE – a 360 degree approach to road safety

- **Traffic rules**
 - **Road signs and signals**
-
- **Driving times and rest periods for professional drivers**



History



1909 Model T Ford

2014 Google car





History

1909 International Convention on Motor Traffic , Paris

1926 International Convention relating to Road Traffic, Paris
1926 International Convention relating to Motor Traffic, Paris

1931 Convention concerning the Unification of Road Signs, Geneva

1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic, Washington D.C.

1949 Convention on Road Traffic, Geneva
1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, Geneva

1968 Convention on Road Traffic, Vienna
1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals, Vienna

1971 European Agreement Supplementing the Convention (Road Traffic), Geneva

1971 European Agreement Supplementing the Convention (Road Signs), Geneva

1973 Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement, Geneva





1949 Convention on Road Traffic

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

Geneva, 23 August — 19 September 1949

Final Act

Convention on Road Traffic

Protocol concerning Countries or Territories
at present occupied

Protocol on Road Signs and Signals

(including amendments that entered into force on 22 October 1964)

CONFERENCE DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LES TRANSPORTS ROUTIERS ET LES TRANSPORTS AUTOMOBILES

Genève, 23 août — 19 septembre 1949

Acte final

Convention sur la circulation routière

Protocole relatif aux pays ou territoires
présentement occupés

Protocole relatif à la signalisation routière

(comprenant les amendements entrés en vigueur le 22 octobre 1964)

CONFERENCIA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS SOBRE TRANSPORTE POR CARRETERA Y TRANSPORTE POR VEHICULOS AUTOMOTORES

Ginebra, 23 de agosto — 19 de septiembre de 1949

Acta final

Convención sobre la circulación por carretera

Protocolo relativo a los países o territorios
actualmente ocupados

Protocolo relativo a las señales de carreteras

(que comprende las enmiendas que entraron en vigor el 22 de octubre de 1964)



Lake Success, New York
1950

Desirous of promoting
the development and
safety of international
road traffic by
establishing certain
uniform rules



UNECE - Transport Division



1949 Convention on Road Traffic

UN Transport Agreements and Conventions





1949 Convention on Road Traffic

Chapters:

1. General provisions
2. Rules of the road
3. Signs and signals
4. Provisions applicable to motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic
5. Drivers of motor vehicles in inter'l traffic
6. Provisions applicable to cycles in inter'l traffic
7. Final provisions





1949 Convention on Road Traffic

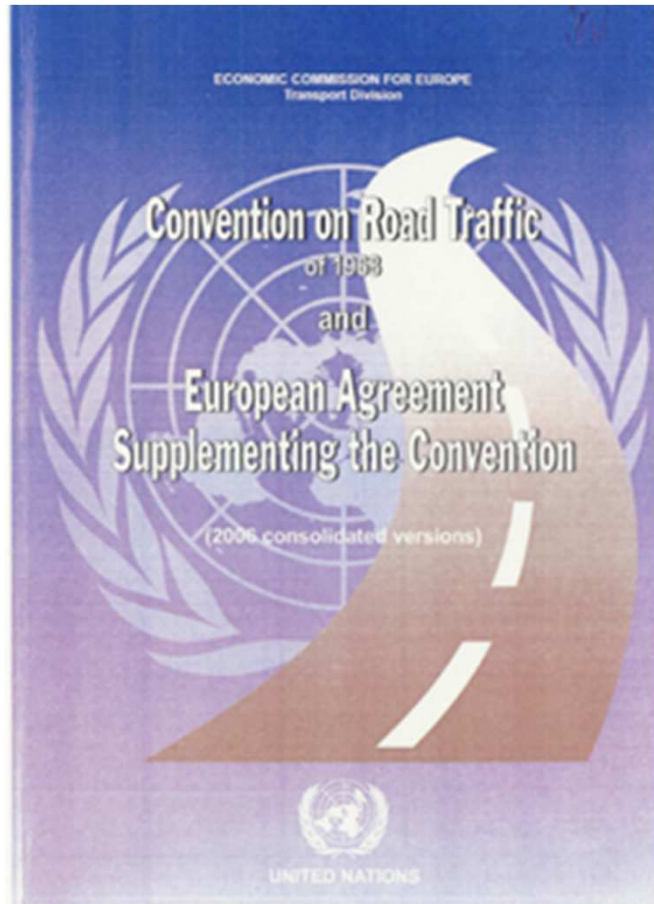
Annexes:

1. Additional provision concerning definitions of motor vehicles and cycle
2. Priority of passage
3. Registration number of vehicles in international traffic
4. Distinguishing signs of vehicles in international traffic
5. Identification marks of vehicles in international traffic
6. Technical conditions concerning the equipment of motor vehicles and trailers in inter'l traffic
7. Dimensions and weights of vehicles in inter'l traffic
8. Conditions to be fulfilled by drivers of motor vehicles in inter'l traffic
9. Model driving permit
10. Model international driving permit





1968 Convention on Road Traffic



To facilitate international road traffic and to increase road safety through the adoption of uniform traffic rules





1968 Convention on Road Traffic



70 Contracting Parties





58 CPs of 1949 Convention on Road Traffic

(yet to become CPs of 1968 Convention)

Algeria, Argentina, Australia,
Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso,
Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Cyprus,
Dominican Republic,
Ecuador, Egypt,
Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala,
Haiti, Holy See, Iceland, India,
Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan,
Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho,
Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Namibia,
New Zealand, Nigeria,
Papua New Guinea, Paraguay,
Republic of Korea, Rwanda,
Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic,
Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia,
Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United
States of America,
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of),



1968 Convention on Road Traffic

Chapters:

1. General provisions
2. Rules of the road
3. Conditions for the admission of motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic
4. Drivers of motor vehicles
5. Conditions for the admission of cycles and mopeds to international traffic
6. Final provisions





Annexes:

1. Exceptions to the obligations to admit motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic



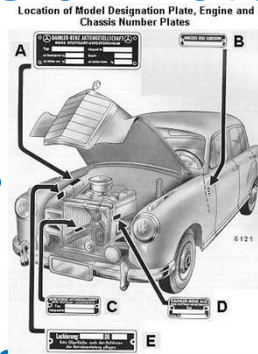
2. Registration number and plate of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic



3. Distinguishing signs of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic



4. Identification marks of motor vehicles in international traffic



5. Technical conditions concerning motor vehicles and trailers



6. Domestic driving permit



7. International driving permit





1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals



International uniformity of road signs, signals and symbols and of road markings is necessary in order to facilitate international road traffic and to increase road safety





1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals



UNECE - Transport Division



1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals

Chapters:

1. General provisions
2. Road signs
3. Traffic light signals
4. Road markings
5. Miscellaneous
6. Final provisions

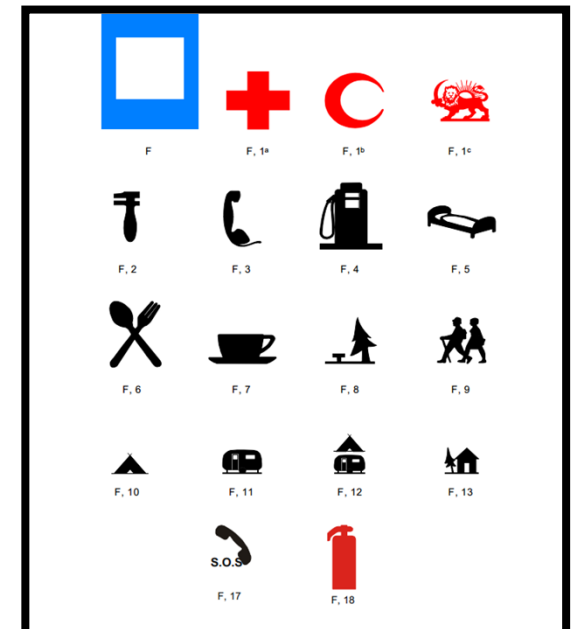
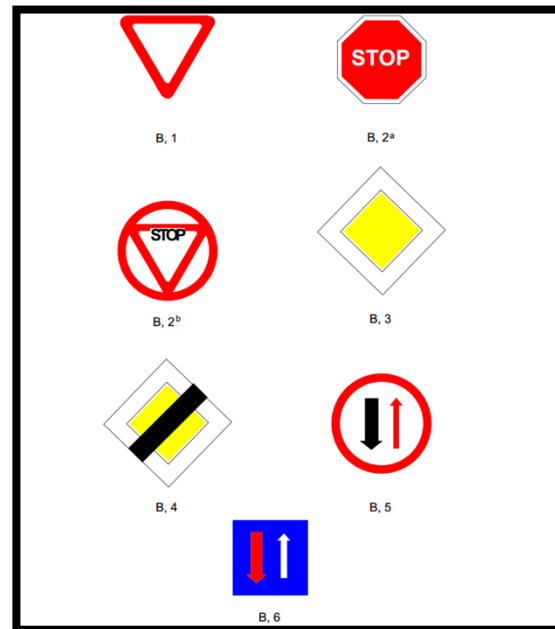
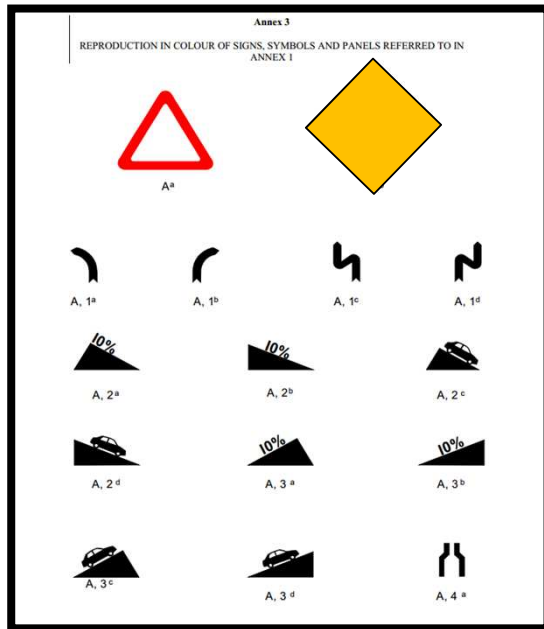
Annexes:

1. Road signs
2. Road markings
3. Reproduction of signs, symbols and panels of Annex 1



Road sign categories

- Danger warning
- Regulatory
- Informative





1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals



**NYC,
United
States**



**Ottawa,
Canada**



UNECE - Transport Division

Obligations

1. When a sign, symbol, marking conveys certain information – cannot not use any other sign, symbol, marking to convey the same information
2. When there is no sign, symbol, marking conveying certain information - a CP can use any sign, symbol, marking provided
 - a. it conforms to the system and
 - b. endeavours to secure regional agreement

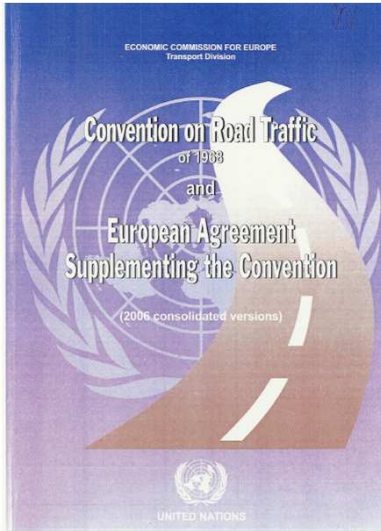
A new CP:

- 4 years to to replace signs, symbols, markings that have a different meaning from that of the Convention
- 15 years to replace those signs, symbols, markings that do not conform to the Convention





1968 Conventions



- Admission to international traffic,
- A set of agreed road traffic rules
- Reference for national legislation
- Mutual recognition of vehicle certificates, driving permits
- Facilitation of international traffic, trade, tourism
- Enhanced road safety



- A system of agreed sign classification
- Over 200 reference signs
- Facilitation of international road traffic, trade, tourism
- Enhanced road safety

Costs and benefits

Accessions to UN conventions may yield substantial benefits to Contracting Parties





Potential future steps

- Consider the net benefits of acceding
- Undertake the necessary national legal steps/procedures for accession
- Deposit an instrument of accession with the UN Secretary-General
- Contact Robert.Nowak@unece.org for info and/or capacity building



UNECE – a 360 degree approach to road safety

- Traffic rules
- Road signs and signals
- Driving times and rest periods for professional drivers



AETR Agreement

EUROPEAN AGREEMENT

concerning

THE WORK OF CREWS OF VEHICLES
ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT
(AETR)

done at Geneva on 1 July 1970

The Contracting Parties,

Being desirous of promoting the development and improvement of the international transport of passengers and goods by road,

Convinced of the need to increase the safety of road traffic, to make regulations governing certain conditions of employment in international road transport in accordance with the principles of the International Labour Organisation, and jointly to adopt certain measures to ensure the observance of those regulations,

relatif

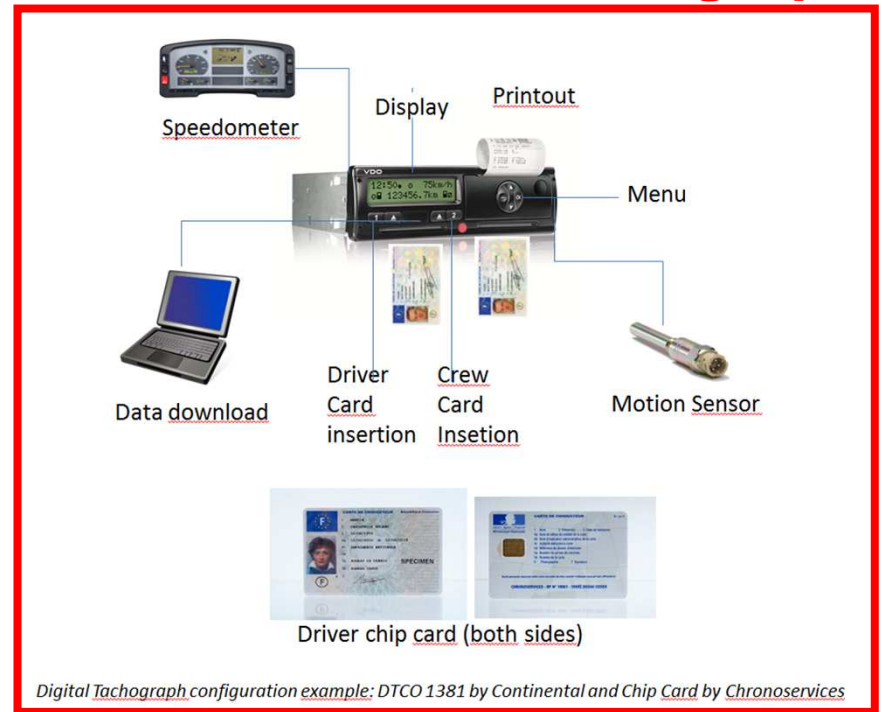
AU TRAVAIL DES ÉQUIPAGES DES VÉHICULES
EFFECTUANT DES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX
PAR ROUTE (AETR)

en date, à Genève, du 1^{er} juillet 1970

AETR Agreement

- To prevent professional drivers from driving excessive hours
- To reduce road accidents due to fatigue
- To avoid distortions in competitive conditions (uniform working conditions)

Control device - tachograph



Digital tachograph

- Tachograph – memory of the vehicle
- Driver card – memory of the activities performed by the driver
- Four types of cards
- Outputs through printer, display or a connector



AETR Agreement



- Article 14 currently restricts accession to UNECE member States
- Ongoing discussions to amend Article 14

51 Contracting Parties





Road safety at UNECE - film

