



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.1/2002/25
18 July 2002

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
(Thirty-ninth session, 23-26 September 2002,
agenda item 5)

**PREPARATION OF THE FOURTH ROAD SAFETY WEEK
IN THE UN/ECE REGION**

Note by the secretariat

On the day devoted to the evaluation of the results of the Third Road Safety Week in the UN/ECE region (1-7 May 2000), organized as part of its thirty-seventh session, the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) took decisions concerning future campaigns (TRANS/WP.1/78, paras. 5 to 8), particularly with reference to the organization of a road safety week every four years and the scheduling of the next campaign in 2004.

In view of this latter decision and in keeping with usual practice which requires that the road safety week should be launched by an Inland Transport Committee resolution, WP.1 considered various possible themes for the Fourth Road Safety Week, such as safety after dark (TRANS/WP.1/2002/18), road rage, safety in tunnels, distance between vehicles, speed, drunk driving, the use of seat belts and driving at night. It decided, however, to postpone the final choice of a theme until the thirty-ninth session and invited delegations to inform the secretariat of additional topics they might wish to add to the above list. This request was recalled in a fax sent by the secretariat on 26 April 2002.

The replies received are reproduced below:

- Germany: In favour of the theme “Road rage”.
- Denmark: No new proposals to add.
- Estonia: “Use of seat belts” if the campaign takes place in February and “drinking and driving” if it takes place in June.
- Finland: “Road rage” could be a general theme, but it should also cover city driving. “Rage” is too restrictive a term.
- France: What is needed is a theme with which each country can identify in terms of its own problems of lack of safety on the roads and which can be included in one of France’s own campaigns. A priori, of the proposals put forward, France is in favour of the following, in decreasing order of importance:
1. Illegal and inappropriate speed
 2. Drunk driving
 3. Seat belts, with equal or greater stress on rear seat belts
 4. Road rage
- France is not in favour of the other proposals (distance between vehicles can be dealt with in part in the context of road rage).
- Ireland: Adds “drugs and driving” and “vulnerable road users”.
- Netherlands: “Road rage”. This is a general theme within which each country can include a secondary topic in keeping with its needs or link it to or incorporate it in planned or future campaigns. It is also a theme which merits attention, which will attract attention and which will not be out of fashion in 2004.
- United Kingdom: Will support any of the themes listed.

USA:

“Use of seat belts” would be the most logical campaign since the promotion of greater use of seat belts by all the occupants of a vehicle is the most significant act of protection enabling a person to survive a collision with an aggressive, drunk or imprudent driver. In the United States, the use of seat belts and child restraint systems is one of the most efficient means of reducing numbers of road deaths and injuries.

* * *

Of nine replies received, “road rage” is the theme most frequently mentioned (4 times), followed by “use of seat belts” (3 times) and “drunk driving” (twice).
