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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
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**REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION
ON ROAD TRAFFIC (R.E.1)**

Mobile phones

Note by the secretariat

The members of WP.1 will find below a draft prepared by the delegation of France concerning the use of mobile phones on board vehicles. Once adopted by WP.1, this draft would be incorporated into chapter 1, paragraph 1.4 of the new structure of R.E.1 (see document ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2005/15/Rev.1).

R.E.1

Section concerning the use of mobile phones on board vehicles

Chapter 1. General rules concerning behaviour in traffic

1.4 Mobile phones

Mobile phones are very useful - also in cars, where they can provide many services such as notifying the emergency services in the event of an accident, phoning a breakdown mechanic, etc., by making use of the numerous possibilities for stopping inside and outside built-up areas and on motorways.

All the studies have shown that there is a link between telephoning while driving and the increased risk of an accident. While at the wheel, a driver needs to give constant attention to the road and to traffic and not to make any gesture that diminishes his control of the vehicle or hinders driving manoeuvres. At all times he must be capable of performing easily and instantly the manoeuvres dictated by the circumstances. Holding a mobile phone prevents a driver from performing these movements correctly and safely.

For this reason, legislation in many countries prohibits and punishes the use of a hand-held phone, while tolerating the use of a hands-free mobile phone kit. Even in this case, however, some national laws provide for the driver's liability in the event of an accident.

The risk of an accident increases even using a hands-free phone since a major part of the driver's attention is taken up by the telephone conversation. For example, he looks less often in the rear-view mirror or to the sides, and pays less attention to the various signs and to pedestrians, particularly in town, etc.

Drivers of vehicles should therefore be recommended **never** to telephone while driving and reminded of the rules they should apply, namely:

- To switch off their phone before moving off and to leave it on voice-mail;
- To stop in an appropriate place to telephone or to listen to their messages (not on the hard shoulder of a motorway, for example);
- To put an end to the call oneself if one has called someone who is driving.

These recommendations should be accompanied by information campaigns, if possible in partnership with the various phone operators, using appropriate slogans, e.g. "Drive or telephone, you choose", to increase the awareness of drivers of the importance of respecting these rules for their own safety and that of other road users.
