Dear Delegates and Experts,

6 November 2008

Development of Technical Specifications for Autonomous Emergency Braking and Lane Departure Warning Systems

You may be aware that the European Commission has recently proposed a new European Regulation to mandate advanced safety systems in heavy vehicles effective from 2013. They have asked for the technical standards that underpin these requirements to be developed through the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva.

The European Commission proposes to implement these systems on new types of heavy vehicle from 29 October 2013. This is a challenging timetable given the usual product development cycle and manufacturing lead times needed by system suppliers and vehicle manufacturers.

The European Commission's proposal was considered by the technical experts of the WP.29's Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF) in September 2008 (see report ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/64, paras. 55 and 56). GRRF endorsed the importance of developing harmonized standards but also identified a broad range of issues that needed clarifying before the development activity could commence. Some of the issues identified as needing further consideration included the accident avoidance scenarios for emergency braking systems, sensing systems and technology suitability/applicability, decision and hierarchy algorithms for application integrity, event reproducibility and test parameters, driver warnings and interaction.

The experts agreed to establish an informal working group under the management of GRRF but in conjunction with the general safety experts given their responsibilities on driver warnings. Before establishing this group, however, it is proposed to hold a special GRRF session on 9 December 2008 in order to clarify the technical issues and to identify a work programme to deliver the objective. Following this brainstorming meeting, a paper will be presented to GRRF in February 2009 and subsequently to WP.29 for endorsement at its March 2009 session.

We are aware that you are a recognized expert in this field and should like to extend an invitation to you to attend the special meeting on 9 December 2008. The meeting will be held at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva, starting at 10.00 am.

To enter the Palais des Nations, delegates have to complete the security application forms as required for formal sessions of GRRF.¹ Please find attached the draft agenda for this special GRRF session.

On behalf of the GRRF Chairman

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Juan Ramos Garcia

(UNECE Transport – Chief of VRTI section)

¹ Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website (http://www.unece.org/transport/regisfr.html). It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by email (virginie.gatto@unece.org or nelly.enonler@unece.org) or by fax (41 22 917 0039). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (extension 73570 or 71112). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other information, see website http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.
DRAFT AGENDA

Special GRRF Session on

Automatic Emergency Braking and
Lane Departure Warning Systems

Brainstorming Meeting

Starting at 10.00 am on 9 December 2008
in the Palais des Nations, Geneva (Room IX)

1. Welcome and Introduction – GRRF Chairman 10.00 – 10.10 am
2. European Regulation – European Commission 10.15 – 10.35 am
   a. Proposal
   b. Background
   Coffee Break 10.55 – 11.20 am
4. Views from industry 11.20 – 12.30 pm
   a. OICA
   b. CLEPA
   c. ISO
   Lunch 12.30 – 2.00 pm
5. Consideration of issues 2.00 – 3.15 pm
   a. Accident scenarios
   b. Sensing systems
   c. Hierarchy and decision controls
   d. Braking and driver information
6. Scope and Timetable issues 3.15 – 4.15 pm
   a. Terms of reference
   b. Informal working group(s)
   c. Timescales and deadlines
7. Next Steps – Chairman 4.15 – 4.30 pm
8. Meeting close 4.30 – 5.00 pm