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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

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OTHER BUSINESS

Note by the secretariat

1. The present document is submitted by the secretariat to the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) for consideration and guidance.
2. According to the Programme of Work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2008-2012, the main continuing activity of the WP.1 is “Monitoring and encouraging the implementation of the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals and the European Agreements supplementing them and the Protocol on Road Markings, and elaboration of amendment proposals to these legal instruments with a view to strengthening and harmonizing road safety standards” (ECE/TRANS/2008/11, page 8, point (a)).
3. At its seventy-first session, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) “requested its subsidiary bodies to review and further improve mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of their respective legal instruments in 2009 and the secretariat to prepare a status report for consideration at its next session” (ECE/TRANS/2006, paragraph 12).
4. The expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement approved by the WP.1 for 2008-2012 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2007/4, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/113, paragraph 37) are the following:

Expected accomplishment:

Enhanced implementation of the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals and European Agreements supplementing them.

Indicators of achievement 1: Number of countries responding to the survey.

Indicators of achievement 2: Number of areas identified for evaluation.

Indicators of achievement 3: Number of new Contracting Parties to the Conventions and European Agreements.

5. The previous questionnaire on monitoring the implementation of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic, and the 1971 European Agreement supplementing it, was launched in 2007. Deadline for replies was 31 October 2007. That questionnaire was prepared and launched as a follow-up to the UNECE Reform whereby the Inland Transport Committee was requested to submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means of monitoring and strengthening the implementation of key UNECE legal instruments on transport, including road safety.

6. Despite reminders, as of today only 17 per cent of the Contracting Parties have replied to the questionnaire. Thus, according to the rules of statistics, the collected data cannot be interpreted in a reliable way.

7. Taking into account the request of ITC, the secretariat must prepare a report and viable proposals on this subject for the seventy-second session of ITC in February 2010. The Working Party may wish to give guidance on future work to be undertaken by the secretariat to review and further improve mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Conventions.

8. According to its Terms of Reference, WP.1 should develop and keep up-to-date the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, done at Vienna in 1968, and the European Agreements of 1971 which supplement them, as well as other relevant legal instruments. WP.1 should also encourage the accession of new countries to the Conventions and Agreements mentioned above (TRANS/WP.1/100/Add.1, item 1 (a) and (b)). Moreover, the number of new Contracting Parties to the Conventions and European Agreements is an indicator of achievement of the WP.1 work programme.

9. The 1968 Conventions are global in scope and the participation in WP.1 is open to all United Nations member States, irrespective of their geographic location. However, there are still 93 Contracting Parties to the Convention on Road Traffic, 1949 and the interest to ratify the 1968 Conventions was extremely low, as was the rate of participation in WP.1 of most of these Contracting Parties.

10. The Working Party may wish to give guidance to the secretariat on how to best address this issue bearing in mind that at the end of 2009, and then every other year, all Working Parties will be requested to evaluate the performance of their activities in view of the expected accomplishments and related indicators drawn up at the beginning of the two-year cycle. For this purpose, the Working Parties should review the accomplishment accounts, drawn up by the secretariat and consisting of an evaluation, both quantitative and qualitative, of the results achieved.
