

**Speech by Mr. M.Y.Kuznetsov,
Head, Industry Department,
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At the 149th session of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)

Dear Mr. Chairman!
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Thank you for granted possibility of making this speech. I am pleased to be here with you at this 149th session of the World Forum.

Our country highly appreciates the results achieved by the World Forum in the area of improvement of vehicle safety and environment protection. The Russian Government considers that the important factor of providing vehicle design safety in Russia is establishing conditions for application of the international technical regulations adopted by the World Forum.

The new consequent step towards that direction is adoption by the Russian Government in September this year of the “Technical Regulation Concerning Safety of Wheeled Vehicles”. The Regulation stipulates the safety requirements for road vehicles in the form of direct references to the UNECE Regulations and the Global Technical Regulations. The same approach for inserting of the UNECE Regulations into the Russian legislation was recently applied within the Vehicle Certification System and the “Technical Regulation Concerning Requirements to the Emission of Harmful (Polluting) Substances by the Road Vehicles Released for Circulation in the Territory of the Russian Federation” adopted in 2005. The number of the UNECE Regulations applied by the Russian Federation in the national legislation is constantly growing. In particular, the number of the mandatory requirements at present consists of the 73 UNECE Regulations. The new Technical Regulation, which will be enforced in September 2010, sets compulsion of application of 112 UNECE Regulations and the Global Technical Regulation on the pedestrian protection. I hope that the members of the Russian delegation will introduce this document in details on the nearest forthcoming sessions of the World Forum.

The Russian Government appreciates the possibility of participation of the Russian experts at the activities of the World Forum and its subsidiary working parties on the global harmonization of requirements for vehicle safety and environmental protection efficiency. From 1986 the Russian Federation as the assignee of the USSR participates at the 1958 Geneva Agreement, and, as well, Russia participates at the 1997 Vienna Agreement on the technical inspections and in the 1998 Global Agreement from the moment of their conclusion. Taking this opportunity, I would like once again to declare our adherence to the ideas of the three said agreements in the area of responsibility of the World Forum.

The participation in the global harmonization of the vehicle requirements is one of the important conditions providing for access to the world market for the Russian vehicles and opening the

entrance to the Russian market for the foreign vehicles taking into account that it complies with the same safety requirements within the framework of the international agreements in force.

As well as in other countries, in the conditions of the crisis the Government of Russian Federation supports the national automotive industry, which is an essential part of the national economy. The measures of state support concern partial compensation by the state of the interest rates under the credits for purchasing vehicles manufactured in Russia, purchasing domestic vehicles for state needs and other important measures. The Russian Government also supports localization of vehicle production in Russia, which provides for new jobs. All this allows us to look in future with optimism.

As well as other countries having developed automotive industry, the Russian Federation shares the concern of the world community by effect of the road vehicles on processes of global climate change is interested in development of energy saving technologies, decrease of pollutant emissions and greenhouse gases in the transport sector. The Government of the Russian Federation considers that it is possible to make a progress toward to solving this problem only by consolidating efforts of the entire world community. In this regard we support the activity of the World Forum directed to a decrease of negative effect of vehicles on the environment.

At the same time, the Russian Government is anxious with the situation with the road transport traumatism. The growth of the automotive fleet shall not be accompanied by the increase of the number of road accidents, and furthermore, the number of fatalities and injuries in road accidents. Russia does not have a good situation with the road transport traumatism. Therefore the Russian Federation Government adopted the federal program of increase of traffic safety for 2006-2012 envisioning a complex of different measures in all elements of the system "driver - vehicle - road". Although the performance of this program demonstrates the positive trends of reducing the road transport traumatism the situation abandons to wish improvement. Sharing the concern of the world community by the problem of increase of road transport traumatism, which is being raised as well at the level of the United Nations, the Russian Federation hosts in Moscow from November 18 till November 20, 2009 the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety. Highly appreciating the experience of the World Forum in practical steps on increase of vehicle safety, the Russian Federation invites all participants of the World Forum to the Moscow conference true supposing that their knowledge and experience will be rather necessary there.

Thank you for your attention!
