Economic Commission for Europe
Inland Transport Committee
Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

Sixty-ninth session
Geneva, 22-24 September 2014
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda
Convention on Road Traffic (1968):
Consistency between the Convention on Road Traffic (1968)
and Vehicle Technical Regulations

Proposal for a new work item on the agenda of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

Submitted by the Government of Sweden

This document contains a proposal by the Government of Sweden to immediately begin work at WP.1 on autonomous driving in the context of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic.
I. Background

1. Since the fifty-ninth session of UNECE WP.1 in March 2009, the question about consistency between the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic and Vehicle Technical Regulations regarding Driver Assistance Systems (DAS) has been on the agenda.

2. At the sixty-eighth session in March 2014 UNECE WP.1 reached an agreement to amend the Convention in this respect.

3. Sweden is of the opinion that the objective with the proposed amendment is to manage driver assistance systems, i.e. systems which help the driver to control the vehicle at all times.

4. However there is a rapid development of technical systems with the aim to take over the driver’s control of the vehicle in order to make it easier for him or her to devote himself/herself to other activities than driving, often called autonomous driving. Sweden is of the opinion that the proposed amendment of the Convention does not manage these kinds of systems.

II. Proposal

5. Sweden proposes that UNECE WP.1 immediately initiate a work item on its agenda regarding autonomous driving in relation to the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic. The work should be unprejudiced and cover all aspects of the Convention.