Economic Commission for Europe
Inland Transport Committee
Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
Sixty-ninth session
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Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda
Convention on Road Traffic (1968):
Registration Plates

Registration Plates

Submitted by the Government of Belgium

At the sixty-eighth session of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety, the Government of Belgium made a presentation about registration plates without at least one numeral. This document proposes amending paragraph 1 of Annex 2 to allow registration numbers in international traffic consisting of letters only.
1. The Government of Belgium proposes to amend paragraph 1, Annex 2 of 1968 Convention on Road Traffic. The purpose of the amendment is to allow - in international traffic - registration numbers containing only letters, as it is already the case for numerals. According to the current wording of paragraph 1, Annex 2, a vehicle with the registration number with only letters would not be allowed in international traffic.

Proposal to amend paragraph 1, Annex 2, 1968 Convention on Road Traffic:

“Paragraph 1

1. The registration number referred to in Articles 35 and 36 of this Convention shall be composed either of numerals or of numerals and letters. The numerals shall be Arabic numerals and the letters shall be in capital Latin characters. Other numerals or characters may, however, be used, but if so the registration number shall be repeated in Arabic numerals and in capital Latin characters.”

Amend as follows (additional text indicated in bold):

“Paragraph 1

1. The registration number referred to in Articles 35 and 36 of this Convention shall be composed either of numerals or of letters or of numerals and letters. The numerals shall be Arabic numerals and the letters shall be in capital Latin characters. Other numerals or characters may, however, be used, but if so the registration number shall be repeated in Arabic numerals and in capital Latin characters.”

2. If a registration number contains only numerals or only letters or a combination of numerals and letters, it appears - from the enforcement perspective, for example, by means of identification by speed cameras - to be equally effective as long as the number is unique to allow identification of the vehicle owner.

3. An amendment to the same effect may be considered for the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic (paragraph 1, Annex 3).