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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Driving Permits

Driving Permits

Note by the secretariat

This document is submitted by the Government of United Arab Emirates.



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Sustainable Transport Division
WP1 Secretariat
8-14 avenue de la Paix
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Switzerland

RE: Amendment proposals on the Domestic Driving Permits and International Driving in the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter the government of the United Arab Emirates wishes to express its concern with regard to the revision of the Annexes 6 and 7 of the UN 1968 Road Traffic Convention. The UAE Transport Authorities acknowledge the fact that the reform of the system of International Driving Permits (IDPs) is long overdue and, thus, encourages the fact that the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP1) aims at reinforcing the delivery norms of both domestic and international driving permits.

It is our understanding that two contrasting proposals to amend Annexes 6 and 7 of the 1968 UN Road Traffic Convention were submitted to the attention of contracting parties of the WP1 in September 2016. We are concerned that contracting parties decided to continue working on the document ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2016/2/Rev.1 which implies the repeal of IDPs and their full replacement with a new format of Domestic Driving Permits (DDPs). The UAE government believes that this proposed amendment will have a serious impact on the facilitation of the international travel. Such a radical change might be a burdensome and resource-intensive procedure, particularly for states whose national driving licences are not compliant with a proposed model.

As a major tourist destination, the UAE is committed to ensure highest level of protection for motorists both going to and coming from abroad. We, therefore, consider the enhancement of security features of existing IDP models to be an efficient approach for strengthening the above-mentioned UN legal instruments. The document ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2016/3 outlines a coherent and logical process of enhancing the international IDP system with a focus on security and harmonization. For this reason, the Federal Transport Authority and all other domestic mobility and security stakeholders have supported the FIA's intention to pilot a more robust IDP document in the UAE with the goal of assessing its impact on safety and efficiency of international travel. We kindly encourage you to consider upcoming project results in the decision-making process.



The UAE government envisages that the process of reviewing respective provisions under the Road Traffic Safety Conventions will be held with a due scrutiny and deliberation. The WP1 Secretariat is kindly requested to ensure the discussion among contracting parties entails a proper assessment and merits of both proposals.

With kind regards,

Obaid Salem AL ZAABI
Ambassador / Permanent Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

