

Proposal to amend Special Resolution 2 (document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1124)

I. Proposal

Chapter II, section D, paragraph 2, item (h), replace by:

"(h) In order to maximize the harmonization potential of Global Technical Regulations, seek to minimize the use of options and modules in UN GTRs, with the aim of including the fewest possible compliance choices, while recognizing the need for them in very limited cases, including accommodating differences in test equipment or facility availability. In this context,

- "Options", which Contracting Parties may choose to apply at their discretion, allow for alternative testing procedures for one same regulatory requirement;
- "Modules", which Contracting Parties may choose to adopt, allow for additional regulatory requirements beyond an agreed core group.

Should other interpretations or situations related to the use of options or modules arise, they will be addressed in the same spirit as set forth in this paragraph or through additional harmonization development."

II. Justification

Following discussions at the AC.3 session of March 2016, AC.3 in June 2016 adopted Special Resolution 2 (see document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1124). AC.3 in March 2016 also agreed that the document should be considered as a living document that may need to be completed/adapted at a later stage, taking into account that some of the raised comments might warrant further discussions, in particular the notion of options and modules (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1120, Paragraph 102).

The authors of this proposal, herewith re-confirm their strong support for Special Resolution 2, since it represents an important step towards an improved functioning of the 1998 Agreement. They also want to stress that:

1. Global harmonisation is crucial and must be maximized
2. Any concept reducing the harmonisation potential of a GTR should therefore be avoided
3. There may however be some (hopefully very rare) cases where full harmonisation is unfortunately not possible (different test equipment, facilities, ...)

Taking into account the comments made at the March 2016 AC.3 session, it is however suggested that a further step is warranted in order to clarify the concepts of options. Such clarification will constitute a further improvement and it will help in the development of new or amended Global Technical Regulations. Account was taken of the concerns raised at the various AC.3 sessions to previous proposals (see informal documents WP.29-171-15 and WP.29-173-05) in order to stress the importance of global harmonization and to provide guidance.
