



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.1/2002/24
21 June 2002

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
(Thirty-ninth session, 23-26 September 2002,
agenda item 3 (c) (iii))

**AMENDMENTS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1968 CONVENTIONS
ON ROAD TRAFFIC AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS AND THE 1971
EUROPEAN AGREEMENTS SUPPLEMENTING THEM**

Installation and use of appliances on board vehicles while driving

Transmitted by the International Road Safety Organization (PRI)

The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) at its thirty-eighth session addressed the question of the risks of the use by drivers of certain appliances: telephones or driving aids, and their impact on safety.

Pending precise results of studies on the subject in various States and throughout Europe, and bearing in mind that progress is constant in the development of such equipment and that it is not possible today to draw up an accurate list or foresee all developments, the incorporation into the Convention of specific rules concerning equipment or the use of any one of these appliances is not envisaged at the present time.

WP.1 has nevertheless expressed serious concerns about the development of such appliances, although no in-depth consideration of possible adverse consequences on safety of their unrestricted use by drivers has been taken to its conclusion. The Working Party has expressed the wish that a warning to States should be included in the Convention, so as to make them aware of the question and induce them to carry out studies of this type.

It was proposed at the thirty-eighth session that the general rule which requires the driver to have his vehicle under control in all circumstances should be given more prominence in the Convention and be moved from Article 13 as a general rule to the introduction to Chapter II of the Convention.

In response to this suggestion, PRI proposes:

- The inclusion as an introduction to Chapter II of a general rule incorporating the first sentence of paragraph 1 of the present Article 13;
- The deletion of the first sentence of paragraph 1 of Article 13;
- The amendment of the heading of Article 7, replacing “General rules” by “Causing danger”;
- The introduction of a new Article 13 bis entitled “Equipment and use of various appliances”.

Text of the general rules to be incorporated in Chapter II

“Every road-user shall:

- comply with the rules established in the national codes concerning him.

In addition,

Every driver of a vehicle shall:

- adapt his driving to the circumstances, in particular the state of the road, the nature and density of the traffic and weather conditions;
- constantly make sure that he does not cause an obstruction or danger to other users, particularly vulnerable users: pedestrians, children, cyclists ...;
- concentrate on the task of driving and in all circumstances have his vehicle under control so as to be able to comply with the requirements of prudence and be in a position to perform all manoeuvres necessary to ensure safety.”

Article 13 bis

Installation and use of appliances

“The development of equipment which is:

- either an integral part of the vehicle,

- or permanently or occasionally installed on board vehicles,
- or installed on roadsides and capable of providing drivers with efficient assistance,

shall be supported and encouraged.

States shall, however, before permitting its installation or use, and before permitting the use of other appliances which may distract the driver from the task of driving, ensure that this will not have adverse consequences for safety.”
