

Decade of action for Road Safety – WP.29 actions

At the request of the Director of the Transport Division this note has been prepared by the WP.29 secretariat for the session of the Bureau of the Inland Transport Committee to be held on Monday 20 June 2011. This part should be incorporated into a more general informal document No. 3 for the session of the Bureau.

This document contains the UNECE plans to achieve the goals of the Decade of Action for Road Safety related part to the Pillar III - safer vehicles.

I. WP.29 and Pillar 3 of the plan of the decade of action

1. The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulation (WP.29) will resume consideration on the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011 – 2020, globally launched on 11 May 2011 regarding Pillar 3 of the action plan "Safer vehicles". WP.29 noted that its activities were included, particularly under Activity 1 (Encourage Member States to apply motor vehicle safety regulations developed by WP.29) and Activity 7 (Encourage managers of governments and private sector fleets to purchase, operate and maintain vehicles that offer advanced safety technologies). The latter activity was considered to be relevant by WP.29 for the 1997 Agreement (periodical technical inspections of wheeled vehicles) and for the possible adoption of Rule No. 2 on crashworthiness at its June 2011 session.
2. WP.29 agreed to revise its approach at its June 2011 session on the following activities related to the decade of action: (a) identify those areas of Pillar 3 activities that fall under the responsibility of WP.29, (b) mandate the subsidiary bodies of WP.29 to address their tasks in those areas where outcomes are expected, and (c) invite the secretariat to participate in the meetings of the Evaluation Working Group that will be set up within this framework.

II. Intelligent Transport Systems as a key tool for the decade of action

3. As a demonstration of the broad outreach of its activity in the field of Pillar 3, the World Forum through an Informal Group is developing legal instruments and recommendations in the field of Intelligent Transport System (ITS). The group is focusing on ITS application on vehicle, the so-called as advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS). It should be noted that infrastructures and interaction between vehicle and infrastructure are not part of the mandate of WP.29. The World Forum is expecting to consider a proposal by the informal group on guidelines for establishing requirements for high-priority warning signals linked to the present and future application of ADAS.
4. The World Forum is also contributing to the development of a road map on the ITS deployment under the aegis of UNECE.

5. In the framework of the decade of action Intelligent Transport Systems have been identified by many stakeholders as a key tool to reduce road fatalities. The expected outcome of ITS application is a high level of service performance, low accident risk, minimal traffic delays to freight, road users and pedestrians. Once the road map will be endorsed by ITC, UNECE will have the mandate to put ITS on the international transport agenda. The road map includes actions on the deployment of ITS that will be performed by UNECE.

6. Moreover, an eagerly awaited International Standard on road traffic safety management systems is currently being developed by ISO for ITS application in this field. The future ISO 39001, Road-traffic Safety management systems - Requirements with guidance for use, will make an impact on the development of traffic safety and diminish a major public health problem across the world.
