



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.1/2002/10
14 January 2002

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
(Thirty-eighth session, 19-22 March 2002,
agenda item 4 (c) (i))

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

Regulation of pedestrian crossings

Article 21.2 (b) of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic

At the thirty-seventh session of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety WP.1, the opinions of members were very divided on the proposed amendment of article 21.2 (b) to request drivers give way to pedestrians when they **intended** to cross on a pedestrian crossing. The International Federation of Pedestrians (FIP) was therefore requested, in conjunction with the secretariat, to prepare a new proposal which could serve as a basis for discussion.

FIP submitted proposals which can be found in document TRANS/WP.1/2002/6; however, for lack of time and bearing in mind the deadlines for translation, these could not be considered in conjunction with the secretariat. The secretariat has therefore also prepared a proposal which is reproduced below and is based on a different approach.

The secretariat started from the principle that, in view of the major divergences on the subject which emerged at the last session, and if the text in force could not be kept as it stood, the only way to avoid the present impasse would be to find a compromise text.

The secretariat therefore suggests that, if the FIP proposal is not adopted, a flexible formula should be introduced into the Vienna Convention in the spirit of the wording of article 20.7 of the Vienna Convention, so as to take account of the various opinions expressed.

On this basis, it is proposed that a new paragraph (c) should be inserted in article 21.2, to read as follows:

“(c) Contracting Parties or subdivisions thereof may enact, with reference to drivers approaching pedestrian crossings not protected by traffic light signals or by an authorized official, more stringent rules than those defined in paragraphs (a) and (b) above by also requiring those drivers to allow pedestrians to cross if they clearly have the intention to cross or have indicated their intention to do so.”

The secretariat further draws WP.1's attention to the present wording of article 21.2 (b) which appears to be less legally binding for drivers at pedestrian crossings than the wording of the last sentence of (a) although similar situations are involved (absence of traffic light signals or of an authorized official). Regardless of the follow-up which will be given to the above proposal therefore, the secretariat submits to the Working Party for consideration the following proposed amendment to bring the wording of (b) into line with that of (a):

“(b) If vehicular traffic is not regulated at that crossing by traffic light signals or by an authorized official, drivers shall approach the crossing only at a moderate speed and give way, if necessary stopping for this purpose, to pedestrians already using or about to use, the crossing.”
