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**REPORT OF THE GROUP OF LEGAL EXPERTS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON
ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY (WP.1) ON THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2006**

I. Participation

1. The WP.1 Group of Legal Experts met on 24 March 2006 in Geneva under the chairmanship of Mr. G. Hoel (Norway). Mr. G. Heintz (Luxembourg), Mr. N. Rogers (IMMA) and the secretariat participated. Mr. A.Y. Yakimov (Russian Federation) and Mr. P. Friedli (Switzerland) were unable to attend.

II. Definitions of motorcycles/mopeds

2. The Group of Legal Experts agreed that it was important to have the approval of WP.1 before continuing its work on definitions. It therefore requested the secretariat to issue the interim report on definitions (Informal document No. 3 of the 48th session) as a formal document for the 49th session of WP.1 (27-30 June 2006). The Chairman of WP.1 would be requested to allow the interim report to be briefly considered at the 49th session and delegates would be requested to transmit their comments on the document to the secretariat by 15 August 2006 so they could be translated in time for the 50th session of WP.1 (7-10 November 2006).

3. If WP.1 approved this approach and decided at its 50th session to continue the work on definitions, it would then be necessary to schedule a two-day meeting of the Group of Legal Experts between mid-November 2006 and January 2007.

III. Transport of dangerous goods in tunnels

4. As requested by WP.1, the Group of Legal Experts considered the text on road signs for the carriage of dangerous goods (TRANS/WP.15/185/Add.2, Annex 2) adopted by the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) at its resumed 79th session (26-27 January 2006) for inclusion in the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR). It stressed that the WP.15 proposal was acceptable as an independent recommendation and proposed that the text be submitted for final adoption by WP.1 at its 49th session.

5. However, the Group of Legal Experts asked the secretariat to add two footnotes to the document, one stating that there are no restrictions on the transport of dangerous goods for category A tunnels and the other that the new provisions will enter into force in the ADR on 1 January 2007 but will be followed by a transition period of three years for their introduction. Once they had entered into force, the new provisions would replace the existing text of section 1.11 (a) of the Consolidated Resolution on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2) (TRANS/SC.1/295/Rev.3). At a future date, WP.1 would have to decide whether these new provisions should be added to the Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals or the European Agreement supplementing it.

6. The Group of Legal Experts recommended that the new provisions should be adapted to the principles and structure of R.E.2 and that a consolidated version of R.E.2 be prepared for the 50th session of WP.1 incorporating all proposals adopted since its last revision.

IV. Driving permits

7. As requested by WP.1, the Group of Legal Experts considered and adopted a revised proposal for section 2.1.1.1.1 of document ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2006/9 (driving permit) prepared by the representative of IMMA. The new text, which appears in the annex to the present report, will be submitted for consideration by WP.1 at its 49th session in a revised version of the document.

V. Next meeting

8. The date of the next meeting of the Group of Legal Experts will possibly be announced at the 49th session of WP.1.

Annex

Revised section 2.1.1.1 of ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2006/9

“2.1.1.1.1 Driving permits and the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic

The amendments to the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, which entered into force on 28 March 2006, introduced a complete set of new provisions concerning national and international driving permits. The objectives were to harmonize the rules for national driving permits and to achieve greater security for international driving permits, which have been the object of numerous cases of fraud.

These changes introduced new provisions concerning:

- the conditions for obtaining a domestic driving permit
- the harmonization of the content of both national and international driving permits, e.g. mandatory and optional items, categories and subcategories of driving permits (with pictograms)
- the prevention of fraud with international driving permits.

The corresponding provisions can be found in Articles 41 and 42 as well as Annexes 6 and 7 of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic as revised.

Independently of these measures, countries should pay particular attention to certain fraudulent practices aimed at issuing international driving permits via the Internet by organizations not authorized by national authorities.”
