

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

Geneva

23 August 1949

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

WORKING PAPER I: DRAFT PROVISIONS FOR INSERTION IN A
CONVENTION ON ROAD AND MOTOR TRANSPORT PREPARED BY THE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON ROAD TRANSPORT OF THE INLAND TRANSPORT
COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

(Document E/CONF.8/3)

Proposals submitted by the Belgian Government

The Secretary-General, in his note of 25 March 1949, requested the Governments invited to the United Nations Conference on Road and Motor Transport to submit to him comments on the agenda or working papers, or any proposals which they might make, for circulation to the Governments concerned.

The Belgian Delegation to the United Nations has submitted the following proposals relating to Working Paper I.

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PROPOSED BELGIAN AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT CONVENTION PREPARED BY THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND SUBMITTED TO THE WORLD ROAD CONFERENCE

Article 16. The registration certificate in Belgium has hitherto included only the registration number and the name, surname and place of residence of the holder of the plate.

Experience has shown that system to involve many disadvantages. The Belgian authorities have therefore decided in future to include the main particulars concerning the vehicle on the certificate in question. Issued by a competent department, the certificate would thenceforward serve as a basis for preparing all other documents required for international and national traffic alike. This would undoubtedly simplify matters for road users.

The Belgian delegation accordingly proposes that the following words be inserted in Article 16, paragraph 2, line 4, after the word "certificate": "and the main particulars of the vehicle as defined in Annex 5B".

The Belgian delegation proposes that the Secretariat prepare an annex 5B with a text based on the model given for the description of a vehicle in the carnet de passage en douane (Document ECE/109-ECE/TRANS.162 of 30 June 1949, page 50).

The adoption of this proposal would tend to reduce the number of cases requiring the application of the restriction indicated at the end of Article 16, paragraph 3.

Article 17, paragraph 1. The Belgian delegation deems it desirable to enunciate at the outset the principle that a motor vehicle should carry its registration number at the front and at the back. It is equally desirable from the point of view of road control, furthermore, that the trailer should carry the same number as the drawing vehicle. That principle being accepted, the Convention could leave Contracting States the option of adhering to the provisions as laid down in the present texts.

The Belgian delegation accordingly proposes that Article 17, paragraph 1, be worded as follows:

"Every motor vehicle must carry at the front and back a registration number issued by the competent authority on a special plate or on the vehicle itself. Contracting States shall be left the option, however, of not requiring the repetition of the registration number at the front.

"In the case of a motor vehicle drawing one or more trailers the single trailer or the last trailer must carry the same registration number as the drawing vehicle. It is nevertheless recognised that in the case of States which do not issue special registration numbers to trailers, the repetition at the back of the trailer of the registration number of the drawing vehicle shall not be required."