



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.1/1999/16
13 July 1999

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
(Thirty-third session, 28 September - 1 October 1999,
agenda item 2 (d))

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

Definitions of mopeds and motorcycles

Transmitted by the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT)

Note: At its thirty-second session, the Working Party requested the secretariat to contact ECMT for information on the definitions of mopeds and motorcycles contained in a report entitled "Vulnerable road users: moped riders and motorcyclists".

Relevant information from that report is reproduced below.

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Mopeds

A problem of definitions

1. According to the Vienna Convention “moped” means any two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicle which is fitted with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cc and a maximum design speed not exceeding 50 km (30 miles) an hour.
2. According to European Directive 92/61 of 30/06/92, mopeds are two or three-wheeled vehicles fitted with an engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cc if of the internal combustion type and a maximum design speed of not more than 45 km/h.
3. Some countries have only one type of moped with a maximum speed of between 45 km/h and 50 km/h.
4. Other countries have two types of mopeds: slow mopeds with a maximum speed of 25 km/h (Belgium, Germany, Netherlands) or 30 km/h (Denmark, Sweden) and fast mopeds with a maximum design speed of between 40 and 50 km/h.
5. In Switzerland, where some mopeds are classed as light motorcycles under the terms of the European Directive there is only one category: slow mopeds with a design speed of 30 km/h.
6. The term moped in fact covers different types of vehicles which have various kinds of equipment and are not used subject to the same regulations in all countries. A consistent definition of this category of vehicles at international level would be extremely useful for the purposes of establishing more uniform manufacturing standards.

Motorcycles

A problem of definitions

7. According to the Vienna Convention, a motorcycle means any two-wheeled vehicle, with or without sidecar, which is equipped with a propelling engine. Three-wheeled vehicles whose unladen mass does not exceed 400 kg can be classified as motorcycles.
 8. According to Directive 92/61 of 30/06/92, motorcycles are two-wheeled vehicles with or without sidecar, fitted with an engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50 cc if of the internal combustion type and/or having a maximum design speed of more than 45 km/h.
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