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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety  
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agenda item 7)

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Transmitted by the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) and  
the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

**Assistance to victims of road accidents**

The present document is a second interim report on the development of recommendations first discussed at the thirty-eighth session of WP.1.

The Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) at its thirty-eighth session invited the small group on assistance to road victims (France, Israel, FEVR and IFRC) to develop the first three recommendations of document TRANS/WP.1/2002/7 from the 2001 Budapest workshop on assistance to victims, namely the harmonization of the definition of deaths and injuries in road accidents, support for the implementation of the resolution on assistance to victims of road accidents (TRANS/WP.1/2001/7) and the contents of the first-aid kit.

A first interim report was submitted to WP.1 at its 39<sup>th</sup> session (paragraph 40 of TRANS/WP.1/85 and TRANS/WP.1/2002/35 and Add.1), and was the subject of a short verbal note delivered at the 40<sup>th</sup> session (paragraph 22 of TRANS/WP.1/86).

Other priorities and time constraints faced during the last two working sessions have not allowed WP.1 delegates to share their comments and suggestions on the proposals submitted in the report (TRANS/WP.1/2002/35). As a consequence, the small group could not complete the file.

## 1. Harmonization of the definition of deaths and injuries in road accidents

1.1. The problem of the reliability of statistics concerning the number of people killed and injured in road traffic accidents was introduced at the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) by the representative of FEVR, supported by document TRANS/WP.1/2002/35/Add.1 prepared by FEVR and IFRC. The subsequent discussion is summarised in the report of WP.6 on its 53<sup>rd</sup> session (TRANS/WP.6/143), as follows:

30. *Representatives of FEVR **informed** the Working Party about proposals for improvements in road accident statistics which are also under discussion by the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) (TRANS/WP.1/2002/35/Add.1). The Working Party noted that there may be underreporting of the actual number of injured persons in road traffic accidents depending on the source of the information. The usual source is the data of the police, but if one takes the data on the injuries (serious and/or slight) and fatalities from insurance companies and hospitals, the number of involved persons is much larger.*
31. *In the discussion the Working Party **noted** that the problem lies in different national sources of information and that different definitions of injuries and time of death may also distort the real figure.*
32. *The Working Party **decided** to have a thorough discussion of the issue of underreporting of road traffic accidents at its June 2003 meeting. It also **requested** the secretariat to prepare a simple questionnaire on this issue as a basis for discussions.*

1.2. Subsequently the Inter-institutional Secretariat of Statistics (Eurostat, CEMT and UNECE) was asked to present at the next WP.6 session in June 2003, a draft questionnaire to be addressed to member countries regarding the origins and definitions of these figures/numbers. After WP.6 agreement, these questionnaires will be sent to member countries and their responses will be considered (in order to improve the reliability of these numbers) by the Group during its next session in June 2004.

1.3. The FEVR and IFRC have met with a representative of the Injury and Violence Prevention Department of the World Health Organization (WHO). One of the core areas of the WHO five-year strategy for road traffic injury prevention relates to improvement of the quality of data. That perfectly matches WP.1 and WP.6 concerns. The WHO has decided to contribute to this work (refer to TRANS/WP.6/143, para. 32) and a letter was sent by WHO to the Secretary of WP.6.

## 2. Support for the implementation of resolution TRANS/WP.1/2001/7 on assistance to victims of road accidents – first-aid kit

Complementary to the work presented in TRANS/WP.1/2002/35, IFRC is engaged in work lead by WHO on developing guidelines for prehospital care. The document aims to provide guidance to decision-makers in establishing or strengthening a national prehospital care system. During the above-mentioned meeting with WHO (paragraph 1.3), IFRC and FEVR presented a report on the progress made in developing support for the implementation of the resolution TRANS/WP.1/2001/7. Useful cross-fertilisation and mutual reinforcement do certainly exist between the two files. More details will be provided at the 41<sup>th</sup> session of WP.1.

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