



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.29/2001/63  
24 August 2001

ENGLISH ONLY

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)  
(One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth session,  
6-9 November 2001, agenda item 8.2.)

APEC ECONOMIES SEEK WP.29 ASSISTANCE

Transmitted by the secretariat

Note: The text reproduced below reproduces the letter that the secretariat received from the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Road Transport Harmonization Project Group. It asks for guidance, advice and technical assistance in resolving the questions which may arise in the application of ECE Regulations and/or global technical regulations in APEC economies.

\_\_\_\_\_

<p>This document is a working document circulated for discussion and comments. The use of this document for other purposes is the entire responsibility of the user. Documents are also available via the INTERNET: <a href="http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.htm">http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.htm</a></p>
---

## **APEC ECONOMIES SEEK WP.29 ASSISTANCE**

### **Background**

Over the last seven years APEC has been examining ways to reduce barriers to trade in the automotive sector through harmonisation of technical regulations. Agreement was reached at an early stage of this process to recognise UN ECE World Forum (WP.29) as the forum responsible for the development of international technical regulations.

Work conducted over the period has included a survey of existing regulations in APEC economies, analysis of those regulations, examination of certifications arrangements and, more recently, development of action plans for several APEC economies for harmonised regulatory systems and efficient certification arrangements.

The twenty-one economies that make up the APEC forum are in varying stages of economic development including the level of regulatory requirements imposed within their jurisdictions. Currently the developed economies in APEC use systems that are different both in terms of certification systems and regulatory requirements. Many of the developing APEC economies have indicated their inclination to use ECE Regulations either unilaterally or through accession to the 1958 Agreement, in the short to medium term. For the longer term, all APEC economies have indicated a commitment to utilise regulations developed through the 1998 Agreement once the Global Technical Regulations have been agreed.

### **Future Work Programme**

Over the next few years it is intended to assist the developing economies to implement domestic regulatory systems to realize their commitments. This will involve a multi faceted approach including assistance in improving technical infrastructure, training and technical advice.

### **Assistance Sought**

To provide the necessary technical advice, APEC economies have indicated that there would be considerable benefit in seeking guidance and advice from those involved in the development and administration of ECE Regulations to assist in establishing arrangements that are consistent with world best practice. It has been proposed that APEC coordinators could forward queries raised by the APEC economies to the six WP.29 subsidiary Working Parties for their consideration and response. These responses would normally be circulated to all APEC economies for information unless the APEC economy originating the query had indicated otherwise.

---