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Convention on Road Traffic (1949):

Registration plates

Amendment to paragraph 1 of Annex 3 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic

Submitted by the Government of Belgium

1. This document proposes to amend paragraph 1 of Annex 3 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic to allow registration numbers in international traffic consisting of letters only.

Amendment to paragraph 1 of Annex 3 of 1949 Convention on Road Traffic

I. Proposed Amendment

Paragraph 1 currently reads:

“1. The registration number of a vehicle shall consist either of figures or of figures and letters. The figures shall be in Arabic numerals as used in United Nations documents and the letters in Latin characters. When other numerals or characters are used, they shall be repeated in the numerals and characters of the types mentioned above.”

Amend Paragraph 1 as follows (additional text indicated in bold):

“1. The registration number of a vehicle shall consist either of figures **or of letters** or of figures and letters. The figures shall be in Arabic numerals as used in United Nations documents and the letters in Latin characters. When other numerals or characters are used, they shall be repeated in the numerals and characters of the types mentioned above.”

Amended Paragraph 1 shall read as follows:

“1. The registration number of a vehicle shall consist either of figures or of letters or of figures and letters. The figures shall be in Arabic numerals as used in United Nations documents and the letters in Latin characters. When other numerals or characters are used, they shall be repeated in the numerals and characters of the types mentioned above.”

II. Explanatory memorandum by the Government of Belgium

1. The purpose of the amendment is to allow - in international traffic - registration numbers containing only letters (as it is already the case for figures). According to the current wording of paragraph 1 of Annex 3, a vehicle with the registration number with only letters would not be allowed in international traffic.

2. If a registration number contains only figures or only letters or a combination of figures and letters, it appears - from the enforcement perspective, for example, by means of identification by speed cameras - to be equally effective as long as the number is unique in order to allow identification of the vehicle owner.
