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Consolidated Resolution on Road Traffic (R.E.1)

A Safe System Approach

Submitted by Spain, Sweden and the United States of America

This document consolidates three options contained in Informal document No. 6 (September 2017) as requested by WP.1 at the seventy-fifth session (para 35, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/159).

2.4.1.3 Role of penalties and other additional restrictive measures

The goal of the system of penalties is not only to punish offenders and, where necessary, remove them from traffic, but also to educate road users in correct behaviour on the public highway and in respect for the rules of the road. Penalties should therefore be adapted so as to provide a lesson, for example, by reducing the time between the offence committed and the pronouncement of punishment, by adapting the severity of the punishment to the seriousness of the offence and/or by developing measures as an alternative or in addition to penalties.

The effect of penalties depends on many factors. Some of the most important are the perceived risk of being caught and the level of penalties. Further the effect is dependent on the nature of the offense is important. The effect will be lower on errors and mistakes with no deliberate intention behind while the effect may be higher on violations with a deliberate intention behind.

2.4.2.2 Measures concerning penalties

(d) With respect to errors and mistakes with no deliberate intention behind, it should be highlighted that there could be other measures more effective than traffic penalties, such as advanced driver assistance systems and an infrastructure designed to mitigate the consequences of an accident.

2.4.2.3 Measures concerning drivers

(e) With respect to violations with a deliberate intention behind it is important to find the right balance between the risk of being caught and the level of penalties to achieve an optimal effect. It should also be highlighted that there could be other measures more effective and comprehensible by road users rather than traffic penalties, such as a clear road layout, understandable and realistic traffic regulations and good traffic education.
