



Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety****Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals****Twentieth session**

Geneva, 25 October 2021

Report of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals on its twentieth session**I. Attendance**

1. The Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals (GE.2) held its twentieth session in Geneva on 25 October 2021, chaired by Mr. K. Hofman (Belgium). Representatives of the following ECE member States participated: Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.
2. The representatives of the European Union, EuroMed and the following non-Governmental Organizations were represented: Confederation of Organization in Road Transport (CORTE), Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and EFA- Europäische Fahrlehrer Assoziation. The following private companies were represented: Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company, Forschungsgesellschaft Strasse-Schiene-Verkehr (FSV) and International Road Safety Initiative (IROSİ).

II. Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 1)

3. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/39). A proposal to add an agenda item "Election of Officers" (i.e., Chair and Deputy) was unanimously rejected by all government delegates.

III. Status of the Group of Experts' final report and proposals to amend Annexes 1 and 3 of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals (agenda item 2)

4. The Chair provided an update (by giving a presentation) on the status of the Group of Experts' final report (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2019/4) and proposals to amend Annexes 1 and 3 of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2019/5) as per the discussions at the Global Forum of Road Traffic Safety (WP.1). In sum, WP.1 has completed reviewing the documents (while making a few changes). The documents are expected to be tabled for formal adoption at WP.1 in March 2022.

IV. Programme of Work: non-Convention signs (agenda item 3)

5. In February 2021, the Inland Transport Committee approved the extension of the mandate of the Group of Experts to 31 December 2022 to allow the Group to complete work on “additional” road signs (i.e. the signs which could potentially be included in the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals in the future) (para 27, ECE/TRANS/304).

6. In this context, the Group considered and discussed how to evaluate the non-Convention (additional) signs using the road signs contained in Informal document No. 2 (February 2019). IROSI introduced Informal document no.1 (which describes the results of an informal survey among the experts) while the secretariat gave a presentation proposing to cluster the road signs from Informal document No. 2 (February 2019) in some high priority areas e.g., vulnerable road users, low emissions zones. IROSI also summarized its presentation on “Signs to evaluate for possible inclusion in the Vienna Convention”.

7. The Group discussed a number of different ways how to select and decide on new signs to be potentially added to the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals and agreed to the Chair’s proposal as follows. First, the Chair and secretariat will develop a questionnaire which will be sent to government officials participating in the Group’s work. The objective will be to obtain a list of ranked priorities. Second, the Chair and secretariat will prepare an informal document that assigns road signs (mostly – but not only - from Informal document no.2 (February 2019)) to the ranked priorities. The Group at its first informal session will discuss the informal document and, at that time, road sign additions may be considered. Finally, the Group will discuss each priority to determine what signs are to be recommended to be added. All recommendations will be reviewed and decided only at formal sessions of the Group.

V. e-CoRSS (electronic version of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals) (agenda item 4)

8. The secretariat informed the Group about the progress in developing e-CoRSS (electronic version of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals). Nearly all of the sign images have been placed in e-CoRSS and the secretariat will begin populating the database with text once WP.1 adopts the amendment proposal contained in ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2019/5. After that phase, e-CoRSS will be publicly available with a proviso that it is not binding until the amendment proposal enters into force.

VI. Other Business (agenda item 5)

9. The secretariat informed the Group that documents and presentations that contain copyright material will not be accepted for processing or posting at the UNECE website (unless accompanied by written permission from the copyright owner).

VII. Date of next meeting (agenda item 6)

10. The next session of GE.2 is scheduled for 30 May 2022 in Geneva. In order to complete its mandate by the end of 2022, the Group agreed to hold some informal sessions (in English only) in-between the formal sessions. The Chair and secretariat will develop a tentative schedule of informal sessions which will be presented to the Group soon.

VIII. Adoption of the Report (agenda item 7)

11. The Group of Experts adopted the report of this session.
