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Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)

Amendment proposals to “European Agreement Supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals”

Revision

Submitted by Lithuania and Luxembourg

This document contains the text of amendment proposals to the European Agreement Supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals as agreed at the March 2024 session of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) (para. 26, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/187). The document also contains the text of a provision informing Contracting Parties about a 15-year transitional period (as per para. 27 and Annex, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/187). Finally, an explanatory memorandum is included. WP.1 will be invited to adopt this document.

Amendments to the European Agreement Supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals:

Contracting Parties undertake to replace, within 15 years from the date of entry into force of this amendment in their territories, any sign, symbol, installation or marking which does not conform to those prescribed in this amendment. During this period, in order to familiarize road users with the signs, symbols, installations and markings prescribed in this amendment, previous signs, symbols, installations and markings may be retained beside those prescribed in this amendment.

I. European Agreement Supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (Articles 1-13)

1. Replace “annex” with “Annex” in Article 1, Article 6 paragraph 7 (three times).
2. Replace “article” with “Article” in Article 2 paragraph 3, Article 3 paragraph 2, Article 4 paragraph 3 (twice), Article 6 paragraph 1, paragraph 2 (a) (twice), paragraph 3 (three times), paragraph 4 (twice), paragraph 6 (twice), paragraph 7, paragraph 8, Article 9 paragraph 2, Article 11 paragraph 1 (twice), paragraph 2, paragraph 4 (twice), paragraph 5, paragraph 6, Article 12 (eight times), Article 13.

II. Annex of the European Agreement

3. Replace “annex” with “Annex” in point 1, point 2, point 7, (new) point 16.
4. Replace “article” with “Article” in point 3, point 7, (new) point 9, (new) point 12 (twice), (new) point 13 (twice).
5. In point 3, delete:

“Additional subparagraph to be inserted immediately after subparagraph (b) of this article

This subparagraph shall be read as follows:

“Residential area' means a specially-designed area where special traffic rules apply and which is signposted as such at its entries and exits.””

6. In point 4, replace:

“Any sign, symbol, installation or marking which does not conform to the system prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement shall be replaced within ten years from the date of entry into force of this Agreement. During this period, in order to familiarize road-users with the system prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement, previous signs, symbols and inscriptions may be retained beside those prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement.”

with:

“Any sign, symbol, installation or marking which does not conform to the system prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement shall be replaced by a Contracting Party within ten years from the date of entry into force of this Agreement in its territory. During this period, in order to familiarize road users with the system prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement, previous signs, symbols and inscriptions may be retained beside those prescribed in the Convention and in this Agreement.”

7. In point 7, replace:

“During the transitional period of ten years prescribed in item 4 of this annex, and thereafter in exceptional circumstances to facilitate the interpretation of signs, an inscription may be added in a rectangular panel below the sign or in a rectangular panel containing the sign; such an inscription may also be placed on the sign itself, if this does not make the sign more difficult to understand for drivers who cannot understand the inscription.”

with:

“During the transitional period of ten years prescribed in item 4 of this Annex, to facilitate the interpretation of signs, an inscription may be added in an additional panel; such an inscription may also be placed on the sign itself, if this does not make the sign more difficult to understand for drivers who cannot understand the inscription.”

8. In point 8, replace:

“Each State shall select A^a as the model for danger warning signs.”

with:

“Each State shall select the model one (equilateral triangle) for danger warning signs.”

9. Delete entire point 9.
10. Delete entire point 9 bis.
11. Delete entire point 10.
12. Re-number point numbers 11, 12, and 13 to become 9, 10, and 11 respectively.
13. Replace the heading of (original) point 13:
“13. Ad Article 31 of the Convention (Signs for road works)”
with:
“11. Ad Article 31 of the Convention (Road works)”
14. Replace the heading of (original) point 14:
“14. Ad Article 32 of the Convention (Marking by lights or reflecting devices)”
with:
“12. Ad Article 32 of the Convention (Lights or reflecting devices to mark the edge of the carriageway)”
15. Re-number point 15 to become 13.
16. In (original) point 15, replace:
“level-crossing” and “level-crossings” with “level crossing” and “level crossings” respectively (five times).
17. Re-number point 16 to become 14.
18. In (original) point 16, replace:
“level-crossings” with “level crossings”.
19. Re-number point 17 to become 15.
20. In (original) point 17, delete the following:
““Paragraph 2 (Dangerous descent)
This paragraph shall be read as follows:
“(a) To give warning of a steep descent, symbol A, 2a shall be used.
(b) The left-hand part of symbol A, 2^a shall occupy the left-hand corner of the sign panel and its base shall extend over the whole width of the panel; the figure shows the gradient as a percentage.”
Paragraph 12 (Pedestrian crossing)
This paragraph shall be read as follows:
“(a) Warning of a pedestrian crossing shall be given by symbol A, 12^a.
(b) The symbol may be reversed.””
21. In (original) point 17, replace:
““Paragraph 18 (Intersection where the priority is prescribed by the general priority rule)
This paragraph shall be read as follows:
“Warning of an intersection where the priority is that prescribed by the general priority rule in force in the country shall be given by symbol A, 18^a.””
with:
“Paragraph 18 (Intersection where the priority is prescribed by the general priority rule)
A-18.1 shall be used.”

22. In (original) point 17, delete:

“Paragraph 20 (Intersection with a road to whose users drivers must give way)

This paragraph shall be read as follows:

“Sign B, 1 or sign B, 2^a shall be used in conformity with the provisions of item 9 of this annex.”

Paragraph 22 (Intersection where traffic is regulated by a light signal)

This paragraph shall be read as follows:

“If traffic at the intersection is regulated by a light signal, a sign A^a, bearing the symbol A, 17 described in paragraph 17 above, may be set up to supplement or replace the signs described in paragraphs 18 to 21 above.””

23. In (original) point 17, replace:

“Paragraph 26 (Other level crossings)

Subparagraph (b)

This subparagraph shall be read as follows:

“Warning of other level-crossings shall be given by symbol A, 26^a or by symbol A, 27 as appropriate.””

with:

“Paragraph 23 (OTHER LEVEL CROSSINGS)

A-23.2 shall be used.”

24. In (original) point 17, replace:

“Paragraph 28 (Signs to be placed in the immediate vicinity of level-crossings)

Model A, 28^c of sign A, 28 shall not be used.

Models A, 28^a and A, 28^b may show red stripes on condition that neither the general appearance nor the effectiveness of the signs is impaired thereby.”

with:

“Paragraph 26 (Signs to be placed in the immediate vicinity of a level crossing)

A-25.1 and A-25.3 shall be used.

A-25.1 and A-25.3 may show red stripes on condition that neither the general appearance nor the effectiveness of the signs is impaired thereby.”

25. In (original) point 18, replace:

“18. Ad annex 1, section B, to the Convention

Paragraph 1 (“GIVE WAY” sign)

Sign B, 1 shall bear neither symbol nor inscription.

Paragraph 2 (“STOP” sign)

This paragraph shall be read as follows:

“The “STOP” sign shall be sign B, 2, model B, 2^a. Sign B, 2, model B, 2^a shall be octagonal with a red ground, surrounded by a narrow white or light yellow border and bear the symbol “STOP” in white or light yellow; the height of the symbol shall be not less than one third of the height of the panel. The height of the normal-sized sign B, 2^a shall be approximately 0.90 m; the height of the small signs shall be not less than 0.60 m.””

with:

“16. Ad Annex 1, section B, to the Convention

Paragraph 1 (GIVE WAY)

B-01.0 shall not bear an inscription.”

26. In (original) point 19, replace:

““19. Ad Annex 1, section C, subsections II, to the Convention

Paragraph 1 (Prohibition and restriction of entry)

Model C, 1^b of sign C, 1 shall not be used.

The two signs C, 3^m and C, 3ⁿ reproduced in the appendix to this annex and having the following meaning may be used:

C, 3^m “NO ENTRY FOR VEHICLES CARRYING MORE THAN A CERTAIN QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES OR READILY INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES”

C, 3ⁿ “NO ENTRY FOR VEHICLES CARRYING MORE THAN A CERTAIN QUANTITY OF SUBSTANCES LIABLE TO CAUSE WATER POLLUTION”.

The note at the end of subparagraph (c) shall be read as follows:

“Signs C, 3^a to C, 3^l as well as signs C, 3^m and C, 3ⁿ mentioned under this item shall not incorporate an oblique red bar.”

Paragraph 4 (Prohibition of overtaking)

Models C, 13^{ab} and C, 13^{bb} of the signs C, 13^a and C, 13^b shall not be used.

Paragraph, subparagraph (a) (ii)

This provision shall not be applied.

Paragraph 9, subparagraph (b) (iii)

This provision shall not be applied.

Paragraph 9, subparagraph (c) (v)

The possibility, where the prohibition applies only over a short distance, of setting up only one sign showing in a red ~~circle~~ the distance on which the prohibition applies, shall not be used.””

with:

““17. Ad Annex 1, section C, subsections I and II, to the Convention

Paragraph 3 of subsection I shall be read as follows:

“3. Each State shall omit the red oblique bar from signs C-03.1 to C-03.14 and C-04.1 and C-04.2.”

Subsection II

Paragraph 1 (Prohibition and restriction of entry)

C-01.1 shall be used.

Paragraph 5 (Prohibition of overtaking)

C-13.1 and C-13.3 without the red oblique bar shall be used.

Paragraph 10 (PROHIBITION OF PARKING)

C-18.0 may not be replaced by a circular sign with a red border and a red transverse oblique bar sloping downwards from left to right, bearing the letter or ideogram used in the State concerned to denote "Parking", in black or dark blue on a white or yellow ground.

Paragraph 10 (Additional provisions applying to the prohibition or restriction of standing and parking)

The provision “Contracting Parties which do not adopt sign C-19.0, C-20.1, C-20.2, C-20.3, may use instead the sign C-18.0 supplemented by additional inscriptions, as provided in Article 8, paragraph 4 of this Convention” shall not be applied.

The possibility, where the prohibition applies only over a short distance, of setting up only one sign showing in the red border the distance on which the prohibition applies, shall not be used.””

27. Delete (original) points 20 and 21.

28. In (original) point 22, replace:

““22. Ad Annex 1, section E, subsection II, to the Convention

Paragraph 3 (“ONE-WAY” sign), subparagraph (a) (ii)

The arrow of sign E, 3^b shall bear an inscription only if the effectiveness of the sign is not impaired thereby.

Paragraph 5 (Signs notifying an entry to or an exit from a motorway)

Additional subparagraph to be inserted immediately after subparagraph (a) of this paragraph

This subparagraph shall be read as follows:

“Sign E, 5^a may be used, and repeated, to give warning of the approach of a motorway. Each sign set up for this purpose shall carry either an inscription in its lower part showing the distance between the sign and the beginning of the motorway or an additional panel H, 1 described in Annex 1, section H to the Convention.”

Paragraph 6 (Signs notifying an entry to or an exit from a road on which the traffic rules are the same as on a motorway)

Additional subparagraph to be inserted immediately after subparagraph (a) of this paragraph

This subparagraph shall be read as follows:

“Sign E, 6^a may be used and repeated to give warning of the approach to a road on which the traffic rules are the same as on a motorway. Each sign set up for this purpose shall carry either an inscription in its lower part showing the distance between the sign and the beginning of the road on which the traffic rules are the same as on a motorway or an additional panel H, 1 described in Annex 1, section H to the Convention.”

Paragraph 7 (Signs indicating the beginning and the end of a built-up area)

This paragraph shall be read as follows:

“(a) The sign to indicate the beginning of a built-up area shall bear the name of the built-up area or the symbol showing the silhouette of a built-up area or the two combined.

The inscriptions shall be in a dark colour on a white or light-coloured ground and the sign shall have a dark-coloured border.

Signs E, 7^a, E, 7^b and E, 7^c are examples of signs showing the beginning of a built-up area.

(b) The sign showing the end of a built-up area shall be identical except that it shall be crossed by an oblique bar coloured red or consisting of parallel lines coloured red running from the upper right edge to the lower left edge.

Signs E, 8^a, E, 8^b and E, 8^c are examples of signs indicating the end of a built-up area.

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 6, paragraph 1 of this Convention these signs may be placed on the reverse side of signs identifying a built-up area.

(c) The signs covered by this section shall be used in conformity with the provisions of the Convention, article 13 bis, paragraph 2.”

Paragraph 10 (Pedestrian crossing)

Sign E, 12^b shall not be used.

Paragraph 12 (“PARKING” sign)

The square panel mentioned in the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall bear the letter “P”.

Additional paragraph to be inserted immediately after paragraph 13

This paragraph shall be read as follows:

“Signs notifying an entry to or an exit from a residential area where special traffic rules apply

Sign E, 17^a “RESIDENTIAL AREA” shall be placed at the point where the special rules to be observed in a residential area referred to in article 27 bis of the Convention on Road Traffic supplemented by the European Agreement begin to apply. Sign E, 17^b “END OF RESIDENTIAL AREA” shall be placed at the point where those rules cease to apply.””

with:

““18. Ad Annex 1, section E, subsection II, to the Convention

Paragraph 4 (ONE-WAY)

The arrow of sign E-04.2 shall bear the inscription only if the effectiveness of the sign is not impaired thereby.

Paragraph 5 (Signs notifying an entry to or an exit from a motorway)

Inclusion of an additional subparagraph

This subparagraph shall be read as follows:

“E-05.1 may be used, and repeated, to give warning of the approach of a motorway. Each sign set up for this purpose shall carry either an inscription in its lower part showing the distance between the sign and the beginning of the motorway or an additional panel H-01.0 described in Annex 1, section H to the Convention.”

Paragraph 6 (Signs notifying an entry to or an exit from a road on which the traffic rules are the same as on a motorway)

Inclusion of an additional subparagraph

This subparagraph shall be read as follows:

“E-06.1 may be used and repeated to give warning of the approach to a road on which the traffic rules are the same as on a motorway. Each sign set up for this purpose shall carry either an inscription in its lower part showing the distance between the sign and the beginning of the road on which the traffic rules are the same as on a motorway or an additional panel H-01.0 described in Annex 1, section H to the Convention.”

Paragraph 7 (Signs indicating the beginning and the end of a built-up area)

E-07.1, E-07.2, E-07.3, E-07.4, E-07.5, E-07.6 shall be in a dark colour on a white or light-coloured ground and the sign shall have a dark-coloured rim.

Paragraph 12 (PARKING)

The letter “P” shall be used.

Signs E-12.3 or E-12.4 shall not be used if there is the possibility to change to more than one option for public transport.””

29. In (original) point 23, replace:

““23. Ad Annex 1, section F, subsection II to the Convention

Paragraph 1 (“FIRST-AID STATION” symbol)

Symbols F, 1^b and F, 1^c shall not be used.

Paragraph 2 (Miscellaneous symbols)

Additional text to be inserted at the end of this paragraph

F, 14 “RADIO STATIONS GIVING TRAFFIC INFORMATION”

Inscription on white square: Under the word “radio” there might be an indication of the name or the code of the radio station when necessary in abridged form and the number of the programme. The word “Radio” may be repeated also in the national language.

Inscription on blue ground: Indication of the frequency and, if necessary, the wavelength of the local radio station.

It is left to the discretion of the countries to add in the case of VHF stations the indication “MHZ” or the regional code, and in the case of medium-frequency or long-frequency stations the indication “kc/s”

The wavelength may be given in figures with the letter m (e.g. 1500m).

F, 15 PUBLIC LAVATORY

F, 16 BEACH OR SWIMMING POOL””

with:

“19. Ad Annex 1, section F, subsection II to the Convention

Paragraph 1 (FIRST-AID STATION)

Symbol of a cross shall be used.”

30. Delete (original) point 24.

31. In (original) point 25, replace:

“25. Ad Annex 1, section G, subsection III, to the Convention

Paragraph 1

Sign G, 4° shall not be used.

Paragraph 2

Sign G, 6° shall not be used.”

with:

““20. Ad Annex 1, section G, subsection II to the Convention

Paragraph 4 (“PLACE IDENTIFICATION”)

Place identification signs shall bear white or light-coloured symbols or inscriptions on a dark-coloured ground.””

32. Delete (original) points 26 and 27.

33. Delete Appendix to Annex to the European Agreement.

34. Delete “ANNEX-APPENDIX”.

Explanatory memorandum

This document (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2023/3/Rev.1) contains the text of proposed amendments to the European Agreement Supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals as agreed at the March 2024 session of the Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) (para. 26, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/187).

In addition, this document also contains the text of a provision informing Contracting Parties about a 15-year transitional period (as per para. 27 and Annex, ECE/TRANS/WP.1/187). Specifically, Contracting Parties undertake to replace, within 15 years from the date of entry into force of this amendment in their territories, any sign, symbol, installation or marking which does not conform to those prescribed in this amendment. During this period, in order to familiarize road users with the signs, symbols, installations and markings prescribed in this amendment, previous signs, symbols, installations and markings may be retained beside those prescribed in this amendment.

The amendment proposals - contained in this document - originate in the final report of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2019/4) and corresponding amendment proposals (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2019/5).

The Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals was established in 2013 (TRANS/WP.1/2013/2/Rev.1) and it met for the first time in 2014 (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/1). In general, the Group was created to provide an international discussion platform to review the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals and the 1971 European Agreement supplementing the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals. The Group also had an opportunity to review the Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement Supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals. The final report of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals ECE/TRANS/WP.1/2019/4, Rev.1 and Rev.2 provide detailed explanations on the changes proposed in this document.
