## 20. Convention on Road Signs and Signals

Vienna, 8 November 1968

### ENTRY INTO FORCE:
6 June 1978, in accordance with article 39(1).

### REGISTRATION:
6 June 1978, No. 16743.

### STATUS:
Signatories: 35. Parties: 68.

### TEXT:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Accession(a), Succession(d), Ratification</th>
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### Declarations and Reservations

(Unless otherwise indicated, the declarations and reservations were made upon ratification, accession or succession.)

#### AUSTRIA

**Reservations:**

1. Article 10 (6) of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals is applied with the exception that the sign B, 2a is announced in advance by the sign B, 1 supplemented by a rectangular panel bearing the symbol "STOP" and a figure indicating the distance to sign B, 2a.

2. Article 23 (1) (a) (i), article 23 (2) and article 23 (3) of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals are applied with the exception that the green light may also be flashing. The flashing of the green light signifies that the green phase will end immediately.

3. Paragraph 6 (signs E, 19 and E, 20) of Annex 5, section F of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals is not applied.

#### AZERBAIJAN

"In relation to paragraph 1 of Article 46 of the Convention, the Republic of Azerbaijan declares that it doesn’t consider itself bound by Article 44 of this Convention."

"The Republic of Azerbaijan declares that it is unable to guarantee implementation of the provisions of the Convention in its territories occupied by the Republic of Armenia, until the liberation of those territories from the occupation and complete elimination of consequences of that occupation ..."

#### BELARUS

**Reservation and declarations made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification:**

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 44 of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals stating that disputes which relate to the interpretation or application of the Convention may be referred, at the request of any of the Parties concerned, to the International Court of Justice for decision.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic declares that the provisions of article 37 of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, under which a number of States may not become parties to the Convention, are discriminatory in character, and it considers that the Convention on Road Signs and Signals should be open for participation by all interested States without any discrimination or restriction.

The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic declares that the provisions of article 38 of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals are anachronistic and at variance with the Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960).

#### BELGIUM

16 May 1989

Reservations to articles 10 (6) and 23 (7), and annex 5, section F, 6.

#### BULGARIA

**Declaration made upon signature:**

The People's Republic of Bulgaria declares that the provi- sions of article 37 of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, under which a number of States may not become parties to this Convention, as discriminatory in character, and it considers that the Convention on Road Signs and Signals should be open for participation by all interested States without any discrimination or restriction.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria declares that the provi- sions of article 38 of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals are anachronistic and at variance with the Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on the Granting of Indepen- dence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

**Reservation made upon ratification:**

The inscription of words on informative signs (i) to (v) inclusive of article 5, paragraph 1 (c), shall be duplicated in the People's Republic of Bulgaria by a transmigration

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into Latin characters solely to indicate the terminal points of international routes passing through the People's Republic of Bulgaria and places of interest to international tourism.

Declarations made upon ratification:
In the People's Republic of Bulgaria mopeds are treated as motorcycles for the purposes of the application of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals [art. 46, para. 2 (b)].

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Reservations:
Pursuant to article 46, paragraph 1, of the Convention the Republic of the Ivory Coast does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 44, under which "Any dispute between two or more Contracting Parties which relates to the interpretation or application of this Convention and which the Parties are unable to settle by negotiation or other means of settlement may be referred, at the request of any of the Contracting Parties concerned, to the International Court of Justice for decision".

CUBA

The Republic of Cuba considers that the provisions of article 37 of the Convention, although concerned with matters which affect the interests of all States, are discriminatory in nature since they deny a number of States the right to sign or become a party to the Convention and this is contrary to the principle of the sovereign equality of States.

The Republic of Cuba declares that the provisions of article 38 of the Convention are no longer applicable because they are contrary to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 1514 (XV), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 December 1960, which proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

The Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 44 of the Convention, under which the International Court of Justice is to have compulsory jurisdiction in any dispute which may arise regarding the interpretation or application of the Convention. With regard to the competence of the International Court of Justice, Cuba maintains that, in order for a dispute to be submitted for settlement by the Court, the consent of all the parties concerned in the dispute must be obtained in each individual case.

The Republic of Cuba declares that it treats mopeds as motor cycles, in accordance with article 46 (2.6) of the Convention.

CYPRIUS

"… the Government of the Republic of Cyprus makes the following declarations and reservations in relation to article 46 and the technical provisions of the Convention on Roads [Signs] and Signals done on 8th November 1968:

1. The Republic of Cyprus does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 44 of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals.

2. The Republic of Cyprus declares that mopeds are treated as motor cycles for the purposes of the application of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals [art. 46, para. 2 (b)].

3. Annex 1, Road Signs, II. Descriptions: 1. Prohibition and restriction of entry (d).

The Republic of Cyprus does not consider itself bound by the provision for the maximum number of silhouettes in each road sign.

4. Annex 1, Road Signs, Section E.

The Republic of Cyprus reserves the right to have road signs with green ground when used on motorways, including road signs Ela, Elb, E1c, E4, E11a, E11b, E18a, E18b.

5. Annex 2, Road Marks, Chapter II Longitudinal Markings, B. Traffic Lane Markings.

The Republic of Cyprus does not consider itself bound by the provisions of paragraph 8 applied in residential areas, as it is described in paragraph 11."

CZECH REPUBLIC

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

With reference to the pertinent provisions of the Convention Zaire shall not treat mopeds as motor cycles.

DENMARK

“Reservation to article 27, paragraph 3 "according to which 'give way' shall be indicated both by transverse marking and a plate."

ESTONIA

Reservation:
"Estonia does not consider itself bound by article 44 of the Convention."

FINLAND

Reservations:
"1. With respect to Article 10 paragraph 6 and Section B of Annex 2, paragraph 2 (a) (iii) (Advance warning signs indicating obligatory stop).

Finland reserves the right to use as an advance warning sign indicating an obligatory stop the "GIVE WAY" sign, supplemented with an additional panel including an inscription "STOP" and indicating the distance to the obligatory stop;

2. With respect to Article 18 (Place identification signs):

Finland reserves the right not to use signs E, 9a or E, 9b to indicate the beginning of a built-up area or signs E, 9c or E, 9d to indicate the end of such an area. Instead of them symbols are used. A sign corresponding to sign E, 9b is used to indicate the name of a place, but it does not signify the same as sign E, 9b;

..... "4. With respect to Section F of Annex 5, paragraph 6 (Signs notifying a bus or a tramway stop):

Finland reserves the right to use signs indicating a bus or a tramway stop which differ in shape and colour from signs E, 19 and E, 20."

FRANCE

The French Government enters a reservation with regard to the application of article 10, paragraph 6, of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals in respect of metropolitan France and French overseas territories:

Decisions adopted under the Economic Commission for Europe provide for advance warning of sign B, 2a (Stop) by means of sign B, 1, supplemented by a rectangular panel bearing the "Stop" symbol and a figure indicating the distance to sign B, 2a. This rule conflicts with the provisions of article 10 of the Convention.

GERMANY

Reservations:
"Ad article 10, paragraph 6

Article 10, paragraph 6, applies in the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with paragraph 9 of the annex to the European Agreement of 1 May 1971
supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals.

*Ad article 23, paragraph 7*

The Federal Republic of Germany does not consider itself bound by article 23, paragraph 7, of this Convention.

*Ad annex 5, section F, No. 6*

The Federal Republic of Germany does not consider itself bound regarding the design of signs E, 19 and E, 20.

**GREECE**

[The Government of Greece] declares that it has no intention of treating mopeds as motorcycles.

**HUNGARY**

*Declarations made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification:*

1. The wording of article 37, paragraph 1, of the Convention is at variance with the purposes and principles expressed in the Charter of the United Nations. All States, without any restriction, should be given the possibility of participating in the Convention.

2. The provisions of article 38 of the Convention, as such, are anachronistic and are not in conformity with the principles of contemporary international law or the present state of international relations, and they are at variance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

*Upon ratification:*

[The Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic] considers itself bound by the provisions of article 10, paragraph 6, of the Convention, relative to the [advance warning signs for sign B, 2], subject to its tenor as defined in the European Agreement supplementary thereto.

**INDIA**

"The Government of the Republic of India does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 44 of the Convention. "India shall treat mopeds as motor cycles."

**INDONESIA**

"Indonesia does not consider itself bound by article 44. "In conformity with article 1 moped will be deemed as motor-cycle."

**IRAQ**

Ratification of this Convention by the Republic of Iraq shall under no circumstances signify recognition of or entry into any relations with Israel.

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

"The Principality of Liechtenstein reserves the right to provide in its national legislation, as an advance warning for sign B, 2, for an identical sign with an additional panel model H, 1, as indicated in annex 1 section H."

"The Principality of Liechtenstein does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 13 bis, paragraph 2, and annex I, section E, subsection II, paragraph 7."

"The Principality of Liechtenstein does not consider itself bound by article 29, paragraph 2, 2nd sentence, article 26 bis, paragraph 1 and annex 2, chapter II, section G."

"The Principality of Liechtenstein reserves the right to enact in its national legislation a regulation specifying that signs C, 13 aa and C, 13 ab shall not prohibit drivers from also overtaking motor vehicles whose maximum speed is limited to 30 km/h."

**LITHUANIA**

*Reservation:*

"The Republic of Lithuania does not consider itself bound by article 44 of the Convention."

**LUXEMBOURG**

With regard to the provisions of article 10, paragraph 6:

The advance warning sign for sign B, 2a shall be sign B, 1, supplemented by a rectangular panel bearing the word "Stop" and a figure indicating the distance to sign B, 2a.

With regard to the provisions of article 23, paragraph 7:

Red or yellow arrows shall be used on a black circular background.

**MOROCCO**

*Reservation:*

Morocco does not consider itself bound by the contents of article 44 thereof.

*Declaration:*

Morocco will treat mopeds as motor cycles.

**MYANMAR**

"... the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar makes [a] reservation in relation […] to article 44 of [the] Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals [of] 1968…"

**NORWAY**

*[For the text of a declaration regarding the application of the Convention to the territories of Svalbard and Jan Mayen see chapter XI.B.19.]*

"The Government of Norway shall not be bound by the provisions, in article 10 (6), annex 4 A (2) (a) (iii), annex 4 A (2) (a) (v) and annex 5 F (4) and (5) [of the Convention]."

**POLAND**

**ROMANIA**

*Upon signature:*

The Socialist Republic of Romania does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 44 of this Convention.

*Upon ratification:*

[Declaration and reservation:*

*[For the text see the declarations and the reservation made in respect of the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna on 8 November 1968 (chapter XI.b.19).]*

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

*Reservation and declarations made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification:*

[Same reservation and declarations, mutatis mutandis, as those reproduced under “Belarus”]*

**SEYCHELLES**

"In compliance with article 46 (2) of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals the Government of the Republic of Seychelles declares that [it] treats mopeds as motor cycles."
SLOVAKIA

SPAIN

In accordance with article 46, ... Spain does not consider itself bound by article 44 and enters a reservation with respect to article 38.

SWEDEN

Reservations:

"(1) Instead of article 10, paragraph 6 of the Convention Sweden will apply the dispositions of paragraph 9 of the annex of the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals.

"(2) With respect to annex 5, section F, paragraph 4, of the Convention, the signs E, 15 shall have a green ground.

"(3) With respect to article 44 of the Convention, Sweden opposes that disputes in which it is involved shall be referred to arbitration.""

SWITZERLAND

Reservations:

Ad article 18, paragraph 2 and annex 5, section C
Switzerland does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 18, paragraph 2 of annex 5, section C.

Ad article 29, paragraph 2, 2nd sentence
Switzerland does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 29, paragraph 2, 2nd sentence.

Ad annex 4, section A, number 2, letter (d)
Switzerland reserves the right to enact, in its domestic legislation, regulations specifying that signs C, 13aa and C, 13 ab shall not prohibit drivers from also overtaking motor vehicles whose maximum speed is limited to 30 km/h.

Ad annex 5, section F, numbers 4 and 5
Switzerland does not consider itself bound by the introductory provision that signals E, 15; E, 16; É, 17; and E, 18 shall have a blue ground.

Text of the reservations made by Switzerland, as adapted in view of the entry into force of the amendments proposed by Belgium on 31 May 1994:

Ad article 13 bis, paragraph 2, and annex 1, section E, sub-section II, paragraph 7
Switzerland does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 13 bis, paragraph 2, and annex 1, section E, subsection II, paragraph 7.

Objections

(Unless otherwise indicated, the objections were made upon ratification, accession or succession.)

ARMENIA

“The Republic of Armenia makes the following objection to the declaration made by the Republic of Azerbaijan in respect of [the] Convention on Road Signs and Signals, signed on 8 November 1968:

The Republic of Azerbaijan deliberately misrepresents the essence of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, with respect to cause and effect of the conflict. The conflict arose due to the policy of ethnic cleansing by the Republic of Azerbaijan followed by the massive military aggression against the self-determined Nagorno-Karabakh Republic - with the aim to repress the free will of the Nagorno-Karabakh population. As a result, the Republic of Azerbaijan has occupied several territories of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.”

Designations under article 46 (2)

Albania...........................................A
Austria...........................................A

B, 2a

B, 2a
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>B, 2b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes:
1. See note in title section of chapter XI.B-19.

2. On 31 May 1994, the Secretary-General circulated amendments proposed by the Government of Belgium in accordance with article 41 (1) of the Convention.

In this regard, the Secretary-General received the following communications from Contracting Parties:

Austria (30 May 1995):
"... The Republic of Austria while not rejecting the amendments proposed by Belgium according to article 41 paragraph 2 (a) [of the Convention] declares the following reservation:

The Republic of Austria declares that Figures [paragraphs] 4 and 6 of Annex 1, section G, subsection V to the Convention on Road Signs and Signals shall not be applied."

Chile (26 June 1995):
[The Government of Chile] hereby informs the Secretary-General that the Government of Chile accepts these proposed amendments.

However, without prejudice to the foregoing, it wishes to make some comments intended to clarify the proposed text. Thus although it agrees to substitute the word "mass" for the word "weight" throughout the text, it believes that the States parties should be allowed a certain period of time in which to make the necessary adjustments.

In annex 1, entitled "Road signs" (Señales viales), the term Señales viales should be used whenever the signs referred to include those used on any transport route in the territory, not only on roads.

The proposed amendment to article 10, paragraph 6, should serve as an alternative to the Convention's current provisions, so that each Contracting Party may opt for the alternative that it finds more suitable.

The wording of article 13bis, paragraph 2, should be changed to make it easier to understand.

The symbol mentioned in annex 1, section A, subsection II, paragraph 5, refers to swing bridges or drawbridges and not to suspension bridges; this should be rectified.

The symbol mentioned in annex 1, section A, subsection II, paragraph 25, refers to level-crossings with gates and not to bridges; this should be rectified.

Germany (31 May 1995):

The proposals contain a revision of the Convention, whereby the location of the provisions and the references between the provisions were changed. For reasons of clarity, also the already existing reservations and declarations are hereinafter adjusted and/or confirmed.

1 Reservations

1.1 Reservation on Article 10 paragraph 6

Article 10 paragraph 6 applies in the Federal Republic of Germany subject to paragraph 9 of the Annex to the European Agreement of 1 May 1971 supplementing this Convention.

1.2 Reservation on Article 23 paragraph 7

The Federal Republic of Germany does not consider itself bound by Article 23 paragraph 7.

1.3 Reservation on Annex I section C subsection II No 1: Prohibition and restriction of entry.

The Federal Republic of Germany does not consider itself bound as far as the design of sign C, 3g "No entry for any power-driven vehicle drawing a trailer" is concerned.

1.4 Reservation on Annex I section D subsection II No 10: Compulsory direction for vehicles carrying dangerous goods.

The Federal Republic of Germany does not consider itself bound as far as the design of signs D, 10a, D, 10b, D, 10c is concerned.

1.5 Reservation on Annex I section E subsection II No 13: Signs notifying a bus or tramway stop.

The Federal Republic of Germany does not consider itself bound as far as the design of signs E 15 "Bus Stop" and E 16 "Tramway Stop" is concerned.

1.6 Reservation on Annex I section E subsection II No 8: Signs having zonal validity.

The Federal Republic of Germany reserves the right to depict signs having zonal validity on a square panel.

1.7 Reservation on Annex I section G subsection I No 1: General characteristics and symbols.

The Federal Republic of Germany reserves the right to give a rectangular shape to informative signs, especially to those indicating the number and direction of lanes.

1.8 Reservation on Annex I section G subsection V No 7: Sign notifying advised itinerary for heavy vehicles.
The Federal Republic of Germany does not consider itself bound as far as the design of sign G, 18 "Advised itinerary for heavy vehicles" is concerned.

1.9 Reservation on Annex I section H No 7:

The Federal Republic of Germany reserves the right to indicate a slippery road section also by means of a main panel (sign B, 1 with the symbol of additional panel H, 9).

Less than one-third of the Contracting Parties having informed the Secretary-General that they reject the said proposed amendments within the period of twelve months following the date of their circulation i.e. 31 May 1995, and in accordance with article 41 (2) (a) of the Convention, the proposed amendments are deemed to have been accepted.

The amendments entered into force six months after the expiry of the said period of twelve months, i.e. on 30 November 1995 for all Contracting Parties, Paragraphs 4 and 6 of Annex 1, section G, subsection V did not enter into force for Austria only.

Other amendments were proposed by various States and adopted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object of the amendment:</th>
<th>Proposed by:</th>
<th>Date of circulation and Entry into force:</th>
</tr>
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</table>

* On 28 September 2005, the Government of Finland notified the Secretary-General, pursuant to article 41 (1) of the Convention that Finland has no objection to the proposed amendments transmitted on 28 September 2004.

The Government of Finland furthermore informed the Secretary-General of the following:

"... the Government of Finland wishes to recall that the acceptance of the amendments shall not affect the reservations made by the Government of Finland to the said Convention".

3 Signed on behalf of the Republic of China on 19 December 1969. See note concerning signatures, ratifications, accessions, etc., on behalf of China (note 1 under "China" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume).

4 The former Yugoslavia had signed and ratified the Convention on 8 November 1968 and 6 June 1977, respectively, choosing A as a model danger warning sign and B, 2 as a model stop signal under article 46 (2). See also note 1 under "Bosnia and Herzegovina", "Croatia", "former Yugoslavia", "Slovenia", "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and "Yugoslavia" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

5 Czechoslovakia had signed and ratified the Convention on 8 November 1968 and 7 June 1978, respectively, choosing A as a model danger warning sign and B, 2a as a model stop signal under article 46 (2), with reservations, one of which with regard to article 44 made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification, was withdrawn on 22 January 1991. For the text of the reservations, see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1091, p. 348 and vol. 1092, p. 412. See also note 1 under "Czech Republic" and note 1 under "Slovakia" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

6 In a notification accompanying the instrument of ratification, the Government of Denmark stated that "until further notice the [Convention] shall not apply to the Faroe Islands and Greenland".

7 The German Democratic Republic had acceded to the Convention on 11 October 1973 choosing Aa as a model danger warning sign and B, 2a as a model stop signal under article 46 (2), and with reservations. For the text of the reservations, see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1091, p. 377. See also note 2 under "Germany" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

8 See note 1 under "Germany" regarding Berlin (West) in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

9 See note 1 under "Montenegro" in the "Historical Information" section in the front matter of this volume.

10 For the Kingdom in Europe.

11 With reference to the signature by the Republic of Korea, communications have been addressed to the Secretary-General by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania and the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Mongolia, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, stating that their Governments considered the said signature as illegal, inasmuch as the authorities of South Korea could not act on behalf of Korea.

12 In application of article 54 (2) of the Convention, this declaration should have been made upon deposit of the instrument of ratification. The ratification was to have become effective on 16 November 1989, and in the absence of objection within a period of 90 days from the date (7 July 1989) when it was circulated by the Secretary-General, the notification was formally deposited as at 5 October 1989.

13 In a notification received on 6 May 1994, the Government of Bulgaria notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the reservation made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification with respect to article 44. For the text of the reservation, see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1120, p. 537.

14 In a communication received on 5 September 1995, by virtue of the entry into force of the amendments proposed by Belgium on 31 May 1994 the Government of Finland notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw the following reservation made upon ratification:

"3. With respect to Section F of Annex 5, preamble and paragraphs 4 and 5: Finland reserves the right to use green colour as the ground of signs E, 15 to E, 18."

15 In a communication received on 8 December 1989, the Government of Hungary notified the Secretary-General that it
had decided to withdraw its reservation with respect to article 44 of the Convention made upon ratification. For the text of the reservation, see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1091, p. 378.

16 On 17 March 1989, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Israel the following objection:

"The Government of the State of Israel has noted that the instrument of accession of the Republic of Iraq to the [said] Convention contains a reservation in respect of Israel. In view of the Government of the State of Israel, such reservation which is explicitly of a political character is incompatible with the purposes and objectives of this Convention and cannot in any way affect whatever obligations are binding upon the Republic of Iraq under general international law or under particular Conventions.

"The Government of the State of Israel will, in so far as concerns the substance of the matter, adopt towards the Republic of Iraq an attitude of complete reciprocity."

17 On 16 October 1997, the Government of Poland notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservation with regard to article 44 of the Convention made upon ratification. For the text of the reservation see United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1365, p. 350.