



Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles
International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers

The United Nations Uniform Technical Regulations for Motor Vehicles: 50 years of experience with the 1958 Agreement

The point of view of the vehicle manufacturers

Paris, 17 June 2008

At the occasion of the 145th meeting of the United Nations World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulation, a special Round Table will be held on 26 June 08 in the Geneva offices of the United Nations to celebrate 50 years of existence of the International Agreement which forms the basis of most of its work – known as the 1958 Agreement.

This 1958 Agreement sets down the basic rules that vehicles and their components must meet in order to be put on a widely international market. Today, almost 130 Regulations annexed to this agreement govern the safety, environmental or security performance that vehicles and components must meet, in order to benefit from an international certification that is recognized by a large number of countries worldwide.

"The 1958 Agreement is therefore an essential tool for international harmonization", says OICA, "providing a mechanism through which vehicles meeting common rules need to be certified only once, thereby being accepted without any additional red tape in a large number of markets. It allows manufacturers to design and produce safer and cleaner vehicles for international markets, without wasting resources on contradictory legal requirements and administration. The 1958 Agreement is an excellent tool to implement the global technical regulations being developed under the parallel 1998 Agreement, thereby potentially going from a widely international harmonization to a truly global one."

While originally focused on the European market, the 1958 Agreement and its separate Regulations are now reaching far beyond the European borders, up to Asia, Oceania and Africa.

"With the emergence of new economies, the role of the 1958 Agreement becomes even more crucial", says OICA, "and manufacturers worldwide make a strong appeal to those countries not yet recognising it to do so as soon as possible."

The agenda of the 26 June 08 Round Table is available at <http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2008/wp29/50thAnniversaryAgenda.pdf> and specialized media are invited to participate in this event, in which OICA will participate at the highest level.

To register, please go to: <http://www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html> and contact the UN secretariat in Geneva (Mr. Juan Ramos - juan.ramos.garcia@unece.org)

OICA (Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles) has a membership of over 40 national associations of manufacturers all over the world and is the official vehicle industry representative at the United Nations.