

No. 30670

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**MULTILATERAL**

**Agreement on minimum requirements for the issue and validity of driving permits (APC) (with annexes). Concluded at Geneva on 1 April 1975**

*Authentic texts: English, French and Russian.*

*Registered ex officio on 31 January 1994.*

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**MULTILATÉRAL**

**Accord sur les exigences minimales pour la délivrance et la validité des permis de conduire (APC) [avec annexes]. Conclu à Genève le 1<sup>er</sup> avril 1975**

*Textes authentiques : anglais, français et russe.*

*Enregistré d'office le 31 janvier 1994.*

## AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUE AND VALIDITY OF DRIVING PERMITS (APC)

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES,

DESIRING to achieve greater uniformity of rules governing the issue and the validity of driving permits with a view to improving road traffic safety and facilitating the issue of such permits to foreign drivers acquiring normal residence in their territory,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the provisions of Article 8, paragraph 3 and Article 41, paragraph 3 of the Convention on Road Traffic opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968,<sup>2</sup>

HAVE AGREED as follows:

SCOPE AND  
DEFINITIONS

### Article 1

1. This Agreement applies to driving permits other than learner-driver permits, driving permits for riders of mopeds or driving permits for pedestrian-controlled motor vehicles, valid for the categories of vehicles specified in Annexes 6 and 7 of the Convention on Road Traffic opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968. It does not apply to driving permits issued before its entry into force or to the renewal thereof, except as regards the extension of such permits after that date to include additional categories of vehicles.
2. Except when otherwise indicated, the terms used throughout the text of this Agreement have the meaning attributed to them in the Convention mentioned under paragraph 1 of this article.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 31 January 1994, i.e., the ninetieth day after five of the States members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and States admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity, which had ratified or acceded to the Convention on Road Traffic and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, both opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968, had deposited their instrument of ratification or accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with article 7 (1):

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Date of deposit of instruments of ratification, accession (a) or notification of succession (d)</i>
Bulgaria* .....	28 December 1978 <i>a</i>
Croatia .....	2 November 1993 <i>d</i>
Luxembourg .....	4 October 1982
Morocco .....	31 March 1983 <i>a</i>
Yugoslavia .....	23 June 1978 <i>a</i>

In addition, and prior to the entry into force of the Agreement, the Secretary-General received a notification of succession from the following State:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of notification of succession</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina .....	12 January 1994

(With effect from 31 January 1994.)

\* For the text of the declaration and reservation made upon accession, see p. 70 of this volume.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1042, p. 17.

3. For the purpose of this Agreement, the expression "group of vehicles" means a subdivision of one of the categories mentioned under paragraph 1 of this article.

DRIVING TEST

Article 2

1. National driving permits shall be issued only to drivers who have successfully passed a driving test appropriate to vehicles in the category or categories for which the permit is to be valid.
2. The national provisions relating to this test shall be no less exacting in substance than those set out in Annex I to this Agreement.
3. The provisions of this article do not apply to the renewal of a permit thus obtained.

PHYSICAL AND  
MENTAL FITNESS  
REQUIREMENTS  
FOR DRIVERS

Article 3

National provisions relating to the physical and mental fitness required to obtain a national driving permit and to continue to hold that permit, shall be no less exacting in substance than those set out in Annex II to this Agreement.

ISSUE OF A  
DRIVING PERMIT  
BY A  
CONTRACTING  
PARTY ON THE  
BASIS OF A  
PERMIT ISSUED  
BY ANOTHER  
CONTRACTING  
PARTY

Article 4

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 1 of this Agreement, a national driving permit shall be issued on request by a Contracting Party or subdivision thereof to a driver holding a valid national driving permit issued, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 2 and of Article 3 of this Agreement, in the territory of another Contracting Party after the entry into force of this Agreement between the two Contracting Parties concerned, without this driver having to pass a driving test or medical examination, provided that:

- (a) the said driver has acquired a normal residence in the territory of the Contracting Party issuing the new driving permit;
- (b) the said driver's age is not lower than that required in the territory of the Contracting Party issuing the new driving permit; and
- (c) the foreign driving permit is surrendered to the competent authorities of the Contracting Party issuing the new permit.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 above shall not prevent a Contracting Party applying, in issuing a new driving permit, the relevant provisions of its national legislation on matters other than those covered by this Agreement.

3. The driving permit thus issued shall be valid for driving the vehicles for which the surrendered permit was valid, and shall be subject to any conditions mentioned on that permit.

SIGNATURE OF  
AND ACCESSION  
TO THIS  
AGREEMENT

4. The surrendered permit may be returned to the authorities that issued it.

Article 5

1. This Agreement shall be open for signature or accession by States members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and States admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity under paragraph 8 of the terms of reference of the Commission, which have ratified or acceded to the Convention on Road Traffic and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals,<sup>1</sup> both opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968.
2. Such States as may participate in certain activities of the Economic Commission for Europe in accordance with paragraph 11 of the terms of reference of the Commission, and which have ratified or acceded to the Convention on Road Traffic and the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, both opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968, may become Contracting Parties to this Agreement by acceding thereto after its entry into force.
3. This Agreement shall be open for signature until 1 April 1976 inclusive. Thereafter, it shall be open for accession.
4. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification by the signatory States.
5. The instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

APPLICATION OF  
THIS AGREEMENT  
BY A  
CONTRACTING  
PARTY TO THE  
TERRITORIES  
FOR THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS OF  
WHICH IT IS  
RESPONSIBLE

Article 6

1. Any State may, at the time of signing or ratifying this Agreement, or of acceding thereto, or at any time thereafter, declare by notification addressed to the Secretary-General that the Agreement shall become applicable to all or any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible. This Agreement shall become applicable to the territory or territories named in the notification thirty days after the receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General or on the date of entry into force of the Agreement for the State making the notification, whichever is the later.
2. Any State which has made a declaration under paragraph 1 of this article may at any time thereafter declare by notification addressed to the Secretary-General that the Agreement shall cease to be applicable to the territory named in the notification, and the

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1091, p. 3.

ENTRY INTO  
FORCE OF THIS  
AGREEMENT

Agreement shall cease to be applicable to such territory one year from the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the notification.

Article 7

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after five of the States referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1, have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying or acceding to this Agreement after five States have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession, the Agreement shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

PROCEDURE FOR  
AMENDING THE  
MAIN TEXT OF  
THIS AGREEMENT  
AND THE  
ANNEXES THERE TOArticle 8

1. After this Agreement has been in force for twelve months, any Contracting Party may propose one or more amendments to the Agreement. The text of any proposed amendment, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum, shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General, who shall communicate it to all Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties shall have the opportunity of informing him within a period of six months following the date of its circulation whether they: (a) accept the amendment; (b) reject the amendment; or (c) wish that a conference be convened to consider the amendment. The Secretary-General shall also transmit the text of the proposed amendment to the other States referred to in Article 5 of this Agreement.
2. (a) Any proposed amendment communicated in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall be deemed to be accepted if within the period of six months referred to in the preceding paragraph less than one-third of the Contracting Parties inform the Secretary-General that they either reject the amendment or wish that a conference be convened to consider it. The Secretary-General shall notify all Contracting Parties of each acceptance or rejection of any proposed amendment and of requests that a conference be convened. If the total number of such rejections and requests received during the specified period of six months is less than one-third of the total number of Contracting Parties, the Secretary-General shall notify all Contracting Parties that the amendment will enter into force six months after the expiry of the period of six months referred to in paragraph 1 of this article for all Contracting Parties except those which, during the period specified, have rejected the amendment or requested the convening of a conference to consider it.
  - (b) Any Contracting Party, which, during the said period of six months, has rejected a proposed amendment or requested the convening of