



## Recommendation 59 (1954)<sup>1</sup>

# Simplification of frontier formalities for private motor vehicles

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

Having given further consideration to the motion tabled by the late M. Jacini concerning the simplification of frontier formalities for travellers [Doc. 98](#) (1951) ;

Desiring to facilitate to the greatest extent possible the development of international touring within the Member States of the Council of Europe ;

Having taken cognizance of the Report of the Scandinavian Interparliamentary Committee on the simplification of frontier formalities for private motor vehicles and of the work carried out under the auspices of the United Nations in this field ;

Considering that, as in the case of the Scandinavian countries, it should be possible to achieve further progress towards the abolition of unnecessary formalities as between Member States of the Council of Europe and that such improvements should not be regarded as duplication of effort but as a step in the direction of the United Nations target ;

Having regard to the Report of the Committee on Legal and Administrative Questions ([Doc. 240](#)), which is hereby transmitted to the Committee of Ministers, so that the present recommendation may be examined in the light of that Report,

Recommends to the Committee of Ministers that they should give early consideration to the following questions and that specific information on the action taken by them to implement this recommendation as well as a first opinion on it should be included in the next Report or supplementary Report of the Committee of Ministers to the Consultative Assembly ;

### SECTION A

Considering that among the Member States of the Council of Europe only Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden have so far deposited their instruments of ratification of or accession to the Convention on Road Traffic signed at Geneva on 19th September, 1949 ;

Having noted, in particular, that Article 24 of this Convention "allows drivers holding national driving licences to drive without further examination in the countries of all contracting States", but that this may be made subject to certain conditions,

Recommends to the Committee of Ministers :

1. that those Members of the Council of Europe which have signed but not ratified the Convention on Road Traffic signed at Geneva on 19th September, 1949, namely Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom, should deposit their instruments of ratification without further delay, and that other Member States which are not at present bound by that Convention, namely Iceland, Ireland, the German Federal Republic and Turkey should accede to it as soon as possible ;

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1. This Recommendation was adopted by the Assembly at its 4th Sitting on 24th May, 1954 (see [Doc. 240](#), Report of the Committee on Legal and Administrative Questions).



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2. that those Member States which have not yet done so should forthwith recognise without reservation the validity of driving licences issued by other Member States to persons principally resident in the territories of these latter States ;

**SECTION B**

Having noted that the agreement signed at Geneva on 16th June, 1949, providing inter alia for the provisional application of the draft international customs convention on touring prepared by the Economic Commission for Europe, has only come into force as between the following Member States of the Council of Europe : Denmark, France, the German Federal Republic, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom ;

Recording its view that this Recommendation in no way affects its main proposals for the ultimate abolition and immediate modification of customs documents as outlined in Section C of this Recommendation,

Recommends to the Committee of Ministers that those Members of the Council of Europe which have signed but not ratified the agreement of 16th June, 1949 providing, inter alia, for the provisional application of the draft International Customs Convention on Touring, namely, Belgium and Luxembourg, should deposit their instruments of ratification, and that other Member States which are not at present bound by the agreement, namely, Iceland, Ireland, Greece and Turkey should accede to it as soon as possible ;

**SECTION C**

Having examined various means of achieving progress towards further simplification and, in particular, certain customs documents at present in use in certain Member countries, namely the Franco-Italian diptyque and the laissez-passer which is available to foreign motorists entering Austria, France, the German Federal Republic, Italy and Switzerland, both of which represent commendable attempts at making the crossing of frontiers easier ;

Noting that in their Report on the simplification of frontier formalities for motor vehicles the Scandinavian Interparliamentary Committee has recommended the complete abolition of customs documents in the case of the temporary importation of private motor vehicles as between Scandinavian countries<sup>2</sup> and that formalities at frontiers between them should henceforth be limited to an occasional check of the motor vehicles national registration papers and/or of the drivers domestic driving licence, and that the first part of these proposals has already been implemented in Denmark ;

Noting that the same procedure obtains in the case of motor traffic between Canada and the United States ;

Recalling that, as between the Scandinavian countries, the present practice is that no financial guarantee is required in the case of the temporary importation of private motor vehicles and that, except in Denmark where even this requirement has been abolished, a visiting motorist from another Scandinavian country is merely required to make a personal declaration in writing whereby he undertakes, inter alia, to re-export his vehicle from the country in question within the scheduled time limit or to pay the import duties and taxes which have become due,

Recommends to the Committee of Ministers :

1. that Member States of the Council of Europe should dispense with their present requirement of a financial guarantee in the case of the temporary importation of private motor vehicles by tourists principally resident in other Member countries ;
2. that they should adopt as the ultimate objective of the Members of the Council of Europe, to be achieved as soon as possible, the complete abolition of customs documents in the case of the temporary importation of private motor vehicles by tourists from other Member States, and that formalities at frontiers should eventually be limited to an occasional check of the motor vehicle's national registration papers and of the driver's domestic driving licence, to be carried out, so far as possible, only at the point of entry into a Member State ;
3. that, as an intermediate step towards the achievement of this purpose, Member States which feel unable at present to abolish completely the customs documents mentioned in the preceding paragraph should introduce, for the use of visiting motorists principally resident in other Member States, a European temporary importation paper similar to the Scandinavian temporary importation paper, that is

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2. In this recommendation, the word "Scandinavian" is deemed to include Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

to say not requiring a financial guarantee, issued free of charge through customs offices and motoring organisations and at frontier posts, valid for one or for several journeys and for at least three months, renewable up to one year (see description of the Scandinavian temporary importation paper in paragraphs 53-59 of the Report of the Committee on Legal and Administrative Questions) ;

4. that, after the introduction of the European temporary importation paper, any check carried out on return to a motorist's country of principal residence in respect of a temporarily exported motor vehicle should be based solely on the national registration papers of the motor vehicle ;
5. that a conference to discuss the above-mentioned measures be convened as soon as possible within the framework of the Council of Europe and that, in addition to the Members of the Council of Europe and a delegation from the Consultative Assembly, the following countries should be invited to participate in it, subject to their having previously indicated that they are in sympathy with these recommendations : Austria, Finland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia ;

#### SECTION D

Having regard to the international scheme for the insurance of motorists against third-party risks worked out under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe, of which the underlying principle is the recognition, internationally, of domestic insurance policies ;

Considering that this scheme is now operating in all Member States of the Council of Europe except Iceland, Greece and Turkey ;

Considering, furthermore, that the introduction of compulsory insurance against third-party risks in those Member States of the Council of Europe where such insurance is not at present required would be another important step towards making motoring easier between these countries,

Recommends to the Committee of Ministers :

1. that Iceland, which is one of the countries where insurance against third party risks is compulsory, should accept the international motor insurance card (green card), and that the Governments of Greece and Turkey should take appropriate steps to ensure that motor insurance companies can issue international motor insurance cards to policy-holders for foreign travel ;
2. that Member States where insurance against third-party risks is not at present compulsory should give consideration to the possibility of making such insurance compulsory.