

**RESOLUTION No. 33
CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF YOUNG CHILDREN CARRIED
IN FRONT SEATS OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

[CM(75)3 Final]

The Council of Ministers of Transport, meeting in Copenhagen on 18th and 19th June 1975,

HAVING REGARD to the Report of the Committee of Deputies on the carriage of young children in motor vehicles;

CONSIDERING:

- that motor vehicle seat belts have proved their worth for the protection of adult passengers;
- that it is difficult at this stage to specify exactly how old, or how tall, children must be before the different types of seat belts for adults can give them effective protection, especially having regard to various use conditions;
- that different ways of dealing with the problem on the basis of the age of the child must be envisaged in any event;
- that babies can be carried most safely at the rear lying in a purpose-built cradle place and securely fastened to fixed and sufficiently strong parts of the car body;
- that it is far safer for passengers to be carried at the rear if they have no seat belts;
- that effectively safe seats and other body-restraining devices for children are available, that some countries have laid down standards to this effect, but no international standards have yet been drawn up at this stage of the research.

RECOMMENDS the Member countries to¹:

1. advocate or, better still, make it compulsory - unless there is good reason for not doing so - for children to be carried at the rear if they are too young or too small to use the seat belts fitted to the vehicle or if there are no special safety devices for them; in this way, only passengers wearing seat belts or using safety devices for children would be carried in front;
2. organise publicity campaigns urging that children not wearing seat belts or special safety devices be carried in the rear; these campaigns should be launched in all countries, but more especially in those which are not inclined to introduce compulsory regulations in the near future;

3. advocate that babies be carried at the rear as long as they are too young to be kept in a sitting position; prescribe that they be laid in a cradle, placed transversally and securely fastened, providing suitable protection from impact and acceleration effects;
4. arrange without delay for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to sponsor the preparation of draft common standards for the design and type approval of special safety devices for children carried in motor vehicles, whether at the front or rear, if necessary making a distinction between young and older children;
5. take the necessary steps - without waiting for international agreement - to ensure that in cases where seats and other safety devices for children are plainly effective, or even unsafe, they shall be withdrawn from the market, if necessary by prohibiting their sale or use in vehicles.

ⁱ The Yugoslav Delegation has entered a temporary reservation on these recommendations.