RESOLUTION No. 45
ON TRANSPORT FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS
OBLIGED TO USE WHEELCHAIRS

The Council of Ministers of Transport, meeting in Helsinki on 26th and 27th May 1981,

HAVING REGARD TO:

-- report CM(81)2 on the transport of handicapped persons in wheelchairs;

-- the report of the 51st Round Table on “Social service” transport: transport of elderly and handicapped persons;

-- the earlier report approved by the Council of Ministers in 1978 [CM(78)22] and the relevant Resolution No. 38;

HAVING IN MIND the fact that United Nations has declared 1981 the International year of the Disabled and,

CONSIDERING the need to improve transport conditions for handicapped persons, particularly those obliged to use wheelchairs;

NOTING that there is a growing demand for travel among handicapped persons;

REAFFIRMS the recommendations already adopted under Resolution No. 38; and

RECOMMENDS, more particularly, that the Governments of Member countries and the responsible authorities:

-- adapt existing transport installations wherever possible to facilitate wheelchair access;

-- ensure that in the installations required for transport in future the possibility of access for wheelchair users is borne in mind;

-- to pursue, in any event, action calculated to facilitate the movement of handicapped persons by organising special services and through the use of cars and taxis;

-- invite the various carriers to arrange for staff dealing with the public to receive training familiarising them with the transport problems of the handicapped;
-- urge carriers, groups of operators and the international organisations concerned, particularly the UIC, with the object of standardizing the characteristics of wheelchairs if possible at international level, to publish the maximum dimensions of wheelchairs which can be accommodated by their respective installations and modes of transport;

-- take appropriate steps to encourage taxi operators to equip their vehicles with facilities enabling the handicapped to use them;

-- introduce measures for the purpose of informing and educating taxi-drivers so that they can competently handle the travel problems of the handicapped;

**DECIDES** to communicate report CM(81)2 and this Resolution to the Executive Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as a contribution to the United Nations Year of the Disabled;

**INSTRUCTS** the Committee of Deputies to submit, in due course, a report on the action taken in the various countries along the lines set out in this Resolution.