RESOLUTION No. 68 ON TRANSPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH MOBILITY HANDICAPS

[CM(89)7]

The Council of Ministers of ECMT, meeting in Edinburgh on 23rd and 24th May 1989,

CONSIDERING:

-- The importance of continuing to work towards accessible transport systems in accordance with the views expressed in Resolutions Nos. 54 and 63;
-- That the ageing of the population in almost all countries implies that a growing number and proportion of people will have mobility handicaps in the future;
-- That improvements that benefit people with a mobility handicap benefit other travellers also;
-- The importance for people with mobility handicap of having readily available accurate information on accessible transport arrangements and facilities;
-- The importance of ensuring that all parts of the transport chain are accessible, including the pedestrian environment.

RECOGNISING the necessity of working with people with mobility handicaps to ensure that solutions are appropriate to their needs;

APPROVES the reports CM(89)8 and CM(89)9, and

NOTES:

A. In relation to Information Systems and Communication Services for People with Mobility Handicaps

-- To stimulate improvements in the provision of travel information from usual sources (e.g. transport operators and travel agents) to people with mobility handicaps;
-- To encourage the provision of information on accessible transport as well as general transport in a form that can be obtained at home or elsewhere by the use of existing and new means of communication;
-- To work with representatives of public transport operators, travel agencies and relevant international organisations on ways of improving travel information on a European-wide basis to customers with mobility handicaps, recognising that many journeys involve more than one transport mode;
-- And, furthermore, to stress that the market for travel by people with mobility handicaps is one with significant commercial potential;

-- To ensure that operators are aware of the need to communicate effectively information on emergency procedures to people with mobility handicaps, both routinely and in an emergency;

-- To ensure that the needs of people with mobility handicaps are recognised in the provision of information to travellers in the course of their journeys, including the design of signing and the use of new technology;

-- In relation to disabled motorists, to encourage the use, in case of breakdown, of a form of help pennant or of a system of in-car communication.

B. In relation to Access Facilities for People with Mobility Handicaps as Pedestrians or in Wheelchairs

-- To establish better coordination between relevant organisations at national, regional and local levels to ensure a coherent approach to the provision of accessible transport facilities;

-- To draw the special needs of people with mobility handicaps to the attention of highway engineers, town planners, and others responsible for the lay-out of streets and pedestrian areas, including access to public buildings;

-- To encourage the drawing up of national guidelines on good practice in street and pedestrians area design to take account of the needs of people with mobility handicaps, and to publicise these guidelines widely;

-- To encourage the continued international exchange of information on this subject.

C. In relation to the Benefits of Providing Accessible Transport

-- That transport cost and revenue considerations alone are insufficient as a means of assessing the value of introducing and operating accessible transport services;

-- To continue to gather information on the savings that transport accessibility brings to other sectors.