



ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSTRUCTEURS D'AUTOMOBILES  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS

First Global Technical Regulation passed / call for quick ratification

## **A Milestone in the Global Standardisation of Regulations**

Paris, *November 18, 2004.* The members of the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles, OICA) are promoting the global standardisation of technical regulations. A milestone in this regard was achieved in Geneva last Thursday, when the UN World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations passed the first Global Technical Regulation — toward which the OICA made a major contribution. “I am very confident that this initial regulation is the first step — and thus perhaps the most important step — toward a uniform global certification process for automobiles in a global market,” said Prof. Dr Bernd Gottschalk, President of the OICA and of the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA). The regulation would now have to be quickly ratified by the individual signatory countries, he added.

The international standardisation results in major benefits for governments, manufacturers and consumers because it allows new technologies to be developed worldwide in a cost-effective manner. According to Gottschalk, this requires that the regulations are in harmony with one another and that they can be reliably taken into account during planning. Only such an approach can avoid regulations with conflicting intentions and goals ; these conflicts cannot be solved by the automotive industry except in some cases with an enormous investment of time and money. In addition, changes should always be accompanied by appropriate transitional periods. This also means that changes to regulations should not already be discussed before the latest changes have even come into effect, as is currently the case in Europe, for example, with the debate on emissions.

Gottschalk also pointed out that the first Global Technical Regulation on door locks and door retention components will serve as a “door opener” for global standardisation, with further global regulations expected in the near future.. Examples of initiatives in which the OICA plays a major role include a globally uniform test cycle for heavy-duty engines as well as regulations on pedestrian protection. These initiatives are based on the 1998 Agreement , which was drawn up by the UN World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) in Geneva with the aim of creating globally uniform methods for certifying motor vehicles. Almost all countries in the world are members of this Forum, in which the OICA also participates as a non-governmental organization. In addition, the WP.29 acts as a steering committee for the UN/ECE regulations contained in the agreement of 1958. These regulations serve as the basis for certifying vehicles for road use in almost every country of the world.

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