

European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)

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UNECE

Overall objective

The AGR agreement of 1975 establishes a grid system of reference roads within the European region having a general north-south and west-east orientation.

The international E-road network also includes intermediate roads located between the reference roads and branch, link and connecting roads.

Importantly, it sets **minimum standards for the construction, maintenance and signage of roads forming the E-road network.**

This agreement facilitates international travel. It also offers the right basis for construction and maintenance of road infrastructure to make it safe.

Key provisions

- Contracting parties to the AGR agreement commit to **constructing or upgrading the E-roads within their territories according to specified minimum standards based on the categories of motorways, express roads and ordinary roads.**
- The higher category roads must be constructed and maintained according to higher minimum standards that enable drivers to travel safely at higher design speeds.

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2016/sc1/ECE-TRANS-SC1-2016-03-Rev1e.pdf>

Key provisions

- Construction or upgrading works are funded by the contracting parties through their national investment programmes although latitude as to the timing of the completion of construction works is given.
- Contracting parties also **commit to equipping their E-roads with harmonized road signs**. This requires meeting specifications related to the **dimensions and placement of the road signs**, the **predominance of international symbols over words**, the **brevity of the message conveyed**, **appropriate sizes for symbols and characters** and suitable proportions in relation to their background and taking into account the maximum speed of traffic.

Annex II

- Sets out the conditions to which the main international traffic arteries should conform
- Includes:
 - Geometric characteristics
 - Equipment such as road markings, safety fences and barriers, road lighting, traffic light signals, variable message signs and emergency signs
 - Facilities for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists
 - Environment and landscaping
 - Rest, toll areas etc

Annex III

- Identification and signing of E-roads

Eligibility

- This Agreement is open to UNECE members States or States which have been admitted to the Commission in a consultative capacity.
- 37 CPs mostly in Europe. So far, from the CAREC region, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan have become Contracting Parties to the AGR.

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/conventn/MapAGR2007.pdf>

Link to the SDGs

Implement minimum standards for the construction, maintenance and signage of roads forming the E-road network:

SDG 9 (target 1) develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

and SDG 3 (Target 6) by 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

Asian Highway Agreement

- Provides a framework for coordinated development of the international highways in Asia, as well as between Asia and Europe, giving the member countries a platform to discuss technical and institutional issues to improve the quality of the network and increase the efficiency of its operation.
- The Agreement is an important tool to facilitate international trade and tourism, promote regional integration and enhance international cooperation
- 30 Contracting Parties (includes all 11 CAREC countries)
- http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/AH%20Agreement%20with%20Amended%20Annex%20I-%202016_En.pdf

Thank you

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