

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RESOLUTION (78) 42

ON THE PREVENTION OF THE UNAUTHORISED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 25 October 1978
at the 294th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

Recalling that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members, *inter alia* by the adoption of uniform rules in penal matters ;

Considering that the large number of traffic accidents has become a serious problem in all member states ;

Considering that the theft and unauthorised use of a motor vehicle often occasion behaviour endangering road safety and can facilitate the commission of serious crimes such as banditry, etc., and that no means of preventing such thefts should be overlooked ;

Considering that every driver must help to prevent such crimes by taking appropriate action in the circumstances, such as locking the vehicle and removing the ignition key ;

Considering, however, that one of the most effective measures is the use of an anti-theft device ; that although the legislation of several member states requires manufacturers to equip their vehicles with such devices, this obligation is not general and that, moreover, important differences exist regarding the obligation to make use of such devices ;

Convinced of the desirability of harmonising provisions to prevent the unauthorised use of motor vehicles,

- I. Recommends that the governments of the member states apply the following principles :
 1. In order to prevent the unauthorised use of motor vehicles, vehicles should be equipped with effective anti-theft devices by manufacturers.

It should be forbidden to put into service any new vehicle not equipped with such a device.
 2. Proper measures should be taken, having regard to the circumstances, to prevent the unauthorised use of a vehicle. Failure to do so may result in an admonition or pecuniary sanction.
- II. Invites the governments of the member states to present to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe a report every five years informing him of the measures adopted as a result of the recommendations contained in the present resolution.