

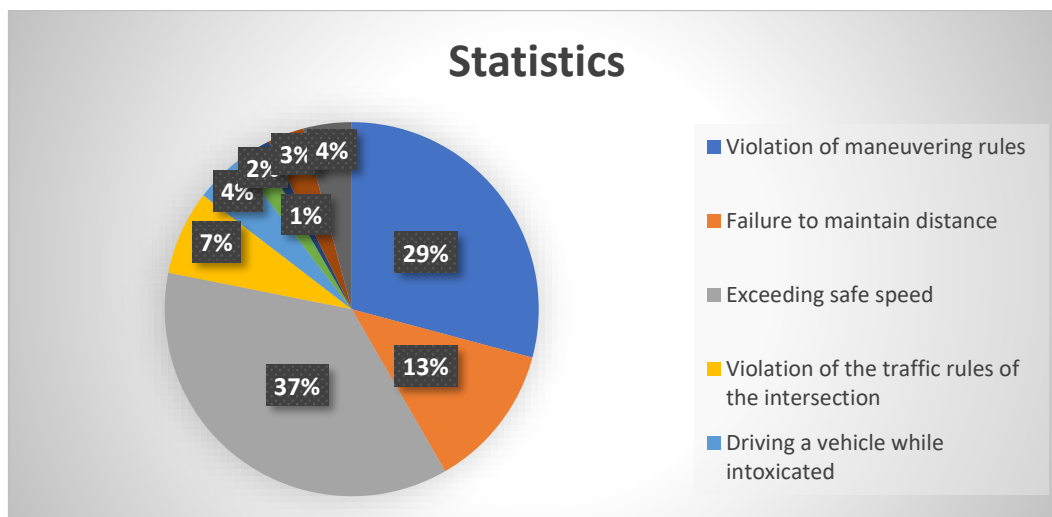
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## **PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF IMPROVING THE CURRENT LAW “ON ROAD TRAFFIC”**

Since the beginning of the year, there have been 5,407 road accidents with fatalities and/or injuries in Ukraine, which is 33.7% less than in the same period of 2021 (8,152 road accidents). In which 908 people died, which is 9.3% less than in the same period of 2021 (1,001 people) and 6,747 people were injured, which is 31.8% less than in the same period of 2021 (9,887 people) [1].

The decrease in road accidents is, of course, due to many factors, including a decrease in the number of vehicles on the country's roads and, accordingly, the intensity of traffic.

However, the main causes of car accidents that were committed during the four months of 2022 are still violations of maneuvering rules - 148 car accidents (28% of all road accidents), failure to maintain a distance - 65 road accidents (12%), exceeding the safe speed of movement - 190 road accidents (35 %), violation of traffic rules at intersections – 36 traffic accidents (7%), driving a vehicle while intoxicated – 22 traffic accidents (4%)[2].



The causes of car accidents with injured people, which were committed during the reporting period, are exceeding the safe speed - 45 road accidents (40%), violation of maneuvering rules - 19 road accidents (17%), crossing in an unspecified place - 5 road accidents (4%), violation of traffic rules pedestrian crossings – 17 road accidents (15%), violation of the rules of the intersection – 10 road accidents (9%) and driving a vehicle while intoxicated – 1 road accident (1%) [2].

Despite the decrease in the number of accidents due to martial law, Ukraine is still the worst in Europe in terms of violations of traffic rules, the number of car accidents and deaths from them. According to the World Health Organization, in 2018 the death rate in Ukraine in road accidents was 13.7 deaths per 100,000 people. Here the country ranks 104th. First in Liberia – 35.9.

At the same time, Ukraine has nothing to be proud of, because other countries have much better indicators: Poland - 125th place, Moldova - 126, Hungary - 138, Belarus - 132, Romania - 121, Slovakia - 148. While we have an indicator of 160 road accidents. Such low rates of Ukraine are due to the insufficient force of the current transport legislation [3].

Therefore, on September 28, 2022, the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Road Traffic" regarding the implementation of legislation No 8082 was registered on the portal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The initiator of the amendments was acting Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal [4].

The bill envisages making changes to the Law of Ukraine "On Road Traffic", which provides, in particular:

- establish categories of vehicles, the right to drive which is confirmed by a driver's license, and the age of persons who can be granted the right to drive a vehicle of the corresponding category;
- specify in the driver's license information about the person passing a practical test on a vehicle with an automatic transmission, which entitles the person to drive vehicles with an automatic transmission only;
- determine the list of documents confirming the right to drive vehicles (national driver's license and driver's license of a foreign country);

– establish the validity period of the driver's license (5 and 10 years) and the main requirements for the registration and issuance of the driver's license, suspension/resumption of the right to drive vehicles, exchange and invalidation [4].

In addition, the final and transitional provisions of the draft law provide that driver's licenses that were issued before the date of entry into force of this Law confirm the right to drive vehicles until January 19, 2033 and can be exchanged for new ones, in which categories are indicated in a certain ratio. As Taras Melnychuk, the representative of Cabinet of Ministers in Verkhovna Rada, said, the draft law proposes to introduce a standard driver's license so that it fully meets all European standards.

An important point in making changes to the Law of Ukraine "On Road Traffic" regarding the implementation of legislation is its impact on budget indicators, because during martial law we have reduced funding. On October 14, 2022, the Expert Opinion of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine on the draft law in accordance with Article 27 of the Budget Code of Ukraine stated that the implementation of the provisions of the draft law will not affect the budget indicators.

So, according to the latest statistical data collected before the war, Ukraine takes the leading place in terms of traffic offenses among European countries, and the majority of car accidents occur precisely because of non-observance of traffic rules due to the lack of demanding legislation and responsibility before the law due to offenses. It is thanks to the analysis of these modern problems that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine took into consideration the introduction of amendments to the Law "On Road Traffic", which means that the policy will change to the strict side, which will help maintain order on the roads in good condition and improve Ukraine's position at the international level. Our indicators and laws will meet European standards, and therefore we will be one step closer to our dream membership in the European Union.

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