



The Council of Bureaux (CoB) is the organisation acting for the protection of cross-border road traffic victims by:



Coordinating the activities of the different **National Motor Insurers' Bureaux** that are members of the **Green Card System**.

= 46 National Insurers' Bureaux representing more than 1500 motor insurers in 47 countries in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

Acting as a Secretariat for the bodies applying the **European Motor Insurance Directives: Compensation Bodies, Guarantee Funds and Information Centres**.

= 31 Member States of the European Economic Area (EEA) .



The Green Card system is a protection mechanism for victims of cross-border road traffic accidents. It consists of 47 member countries.

1949: Introduction of the Green Card System in and around Europe.

- Initiated or encouraged by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Twofold objective: - encouraging cross-border road traffic by removing administrative barriers.
- offering protection to the victim of a road traffic accident caused by a foreign vehicle.

Aim of the system = to have a Motor Third Party Liability (MTPL) insurance policy of an insurance undertaking in country A recognised in country B.

The Green Card System is conditioned on the existence of:

A National Insurers' Bureau

Installed in each participating country to guarantee that a victim suffering damages from a road traffic accident caused by a foreign vehicle (from another participating country) will be compensated in the country of accident. The Bureau of the country of accident can, subsequently, recover all compensations paid from the Bureau of the country from which the liable vehicle originates.

A valid Green Card

Issued by the Bureau of the country of the vehicle involved in the accident (or by an insurance undertaking authorised by a Bureau to issue Green Cards). It provides a guarantee for the visited country that the insurer of the vehicle's country of origin will reimburse the victim in accordance with the rules applicable in the visited country.

The Green Card System offers the possibility to each insurer participating in the system to nominate a **correspondent** in other participating countries to handle all claims arising from accidents caused in the correspondent's country by vehicles insured by the insurer. The Bureau of the country of accident will guarantee the quality of the claims handling process by the correspondent and continues to bear the final responsibility for the reimbursement of the damages caused.

The Green Card System is based on the provision of reciprocal financial guarantees between the Member Bureaux. Therefore mutual trust and **financial stability** of the individual Bureaux represent the fundamental conditions for the overall functioning and continuity of the system.

Example

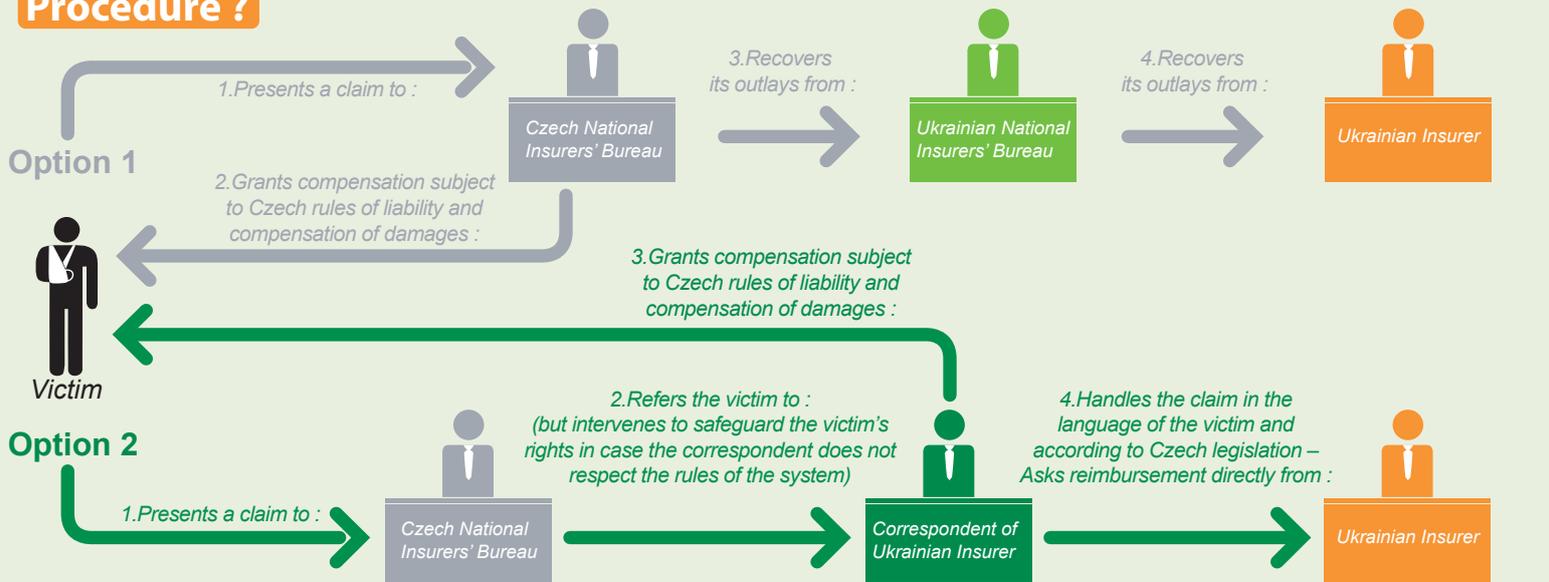
A citizen from the Ukraine drives a vehicle (registered and insured in Ukraine) into the Czech Republic

He causes an ACCIDENT

A Czech citizen suffers material and personal injuries from this accident



Procedure ?



The EU Motor Insurance Directive (2009/103/EC) further enhanced the system of the protection of victims implemented within the European Economic Area.

2 main innovations were created within the framework of the MID

■ The notion of “territory in which a vehicle is normally based”

A vehicle registered in one of the EEA countries is presumed to be validly insured in this country and can travel within the EEA without carrying a Green Card. Even if the vehicle turns out not to be correctly insured, the guarantee of the Bureau of the country in which the vehicle is normally based will apply.

■ The **Protection of Visitors** scheme

This can somehow be classified as the «mirror image» of the Green Card System:

EEA
=
28 European Union Members
+ Iceland
+ Liechtenstein
+ Norway

Green Card System
=
Protection of
a road traffic victim in his own country caused by a
foreign vehicle

Protection of Visitors scheme
=
Protection of
a road traffic victim in a Member State other than
the one of the victim's normal residence

The MID provides for a number of bodies:

The Claims Representatives (CR)

Every insurer established in an EEA Member State and offering MTPL insurance has to nominate in each other Member State a CR. The CR is entitled to receive, handle and settle claims addressed by a victim having his residence in the Member State where the CR is established and related to a road traffic accident that has occurred in another Member State than the State of the victim's residence.

The Compensation Bodies (CB)

For accidents caused in another Member State than the one where the victim has his residence, the CB will intervene:

- In case an insurance company has not nominated a CR in the victim's Member State;
- When an insurance company or its CR has not provided a timely and sufficient reply to a claim;
- If the vehicle having caused the accident cannot be identified or if it is impossible to identify the insurer of the vehicle.

The Information Centres (IC)

In order to enable a victim of a road traffic accident to seek compensation, each Member State has an IC, responsible for keeping registers and providing information about - amongst others - registration numbers (license plates) of vehicles, insurance cover of these vehicles and CR nominated by different insurance companies.

The Guarantee Funds (GF)

The role of the GF is to compensate the consequences of an accident caused by an unidentified or an uninsured vehicle.

Example

A vehicle normally based and insured in France causes an accident in France

A citizen from Norway suffers damages

When returning to his home country the Norwegian victim can present a claim to:



Claims Representative
of French Insurer
In Norway



For the victim = possibility to communicate in his own language and according to the Norwegian custom of claims handling



To determine the liability and the compensation of damages: law applicable to the car accident (French legislation) = respected

(The same applies if the accident in France was not caused by a French vehicle, but for instance by a vehicle which is normally based in the United Kingdom)

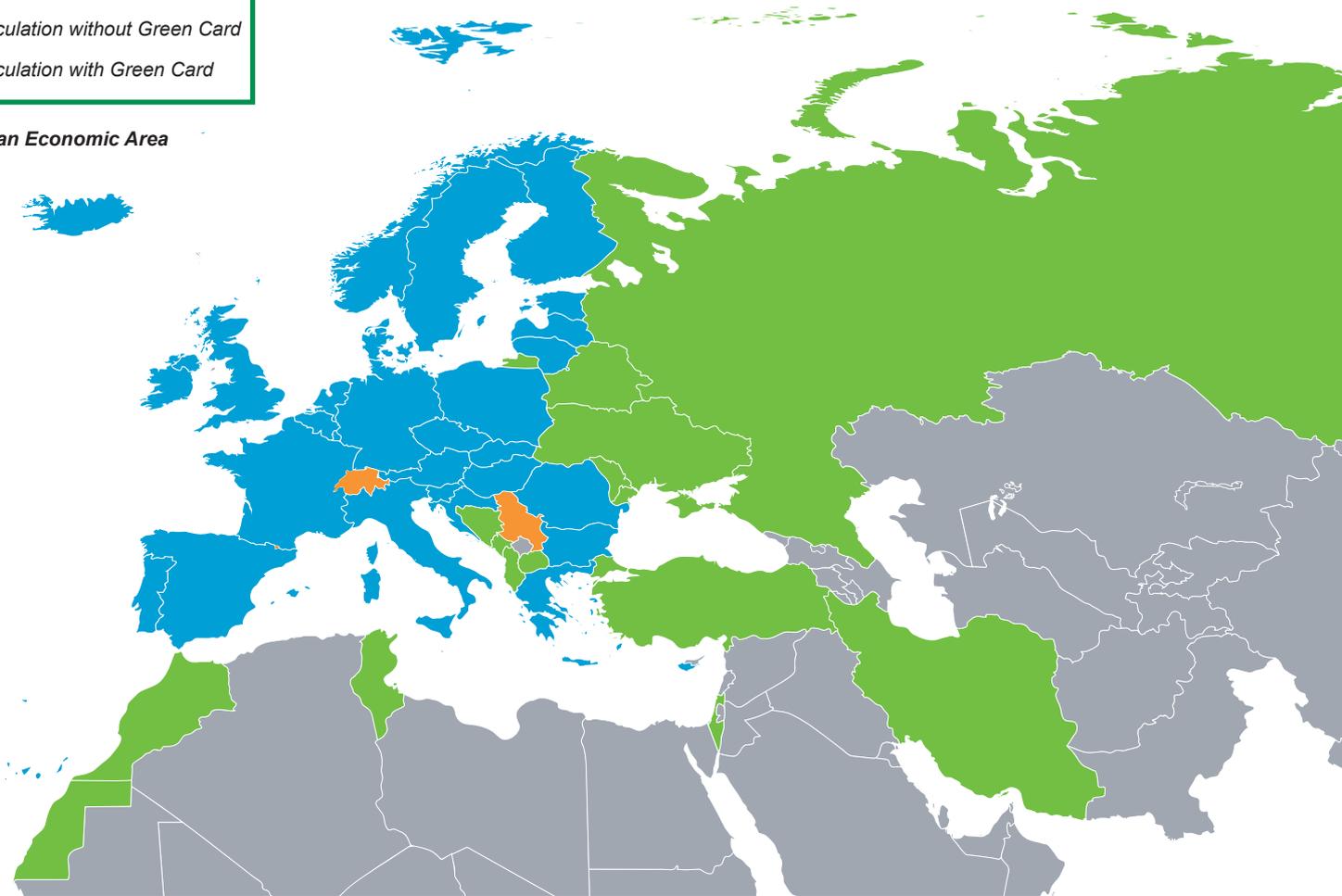
CoB System Map

Green Card System

 Free circulation without Green Card

 Free circulation with Green Card

 European Economic Area



The Green Card System extends to countries in Europe, the Middle East and bordering the Mediterranean Sea. At present, it counts 47 Members States.



Find out more about the Members, the insurers, the CoB legislation and activities.

Use our search tools to find all contact details and the competent organisation in case of an international accident by visiting :

www.cobx.org

