

KEYNOTE STATEMENT

GLOBAL CHALLENGES FOR MOTOR SPORT PROFESSOR GERARD SAILLANT

Dear friends, fellow members of the global FIA family, as President of the FIA Institute it is my great pleasure to participate in the inaugural Sport Conference Week here in Goodwood. Many thanks to our host Lord March for making his very special home available to us, it is a truly wonderful place, synonymous around the world with motor sport heritage and celebration.

Over the next days we have an ambitious agenda created for us by the FIA President and Deputy President. It is their wish to encourage and nurture collaboration at every level of our sport. We at the Institute are ready to make the fullest contribution to this important process of knowledge sharing and development.

As you know, the Institute was launched in 2004 during the centenary year of the FIA. Next year will be our own 10th anniversary and I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved in that time.

From our earliest focus on safety research, we have broadened and deepened our remit to become a multi disciplinary think-tank for innovation and excellence. Safety R&D, education and training, medical research, sustainability and eco management, technology development, we've become a hot house for new ideas and approaches to motor sport development and management.

Over the last 10 years we have pioneered a number of firsts, many of them in close cooperation with the FIA as global regulator and our strategic funding partner, the FIA Foundation.

We developed the first high-performance wheel tethers for F1, with four-times the energy absorption power of previous systems.

We won the Safety Innovation of the Year award for the development of the first high-speed safety barrier, built for highspeed corners with short run-off areas.

We developed a crash helmet specifically for young drivers, the first time a helmet had been developed for a young person's physiology.

We developed and implemented an entirely new side-impact safety system for cars in the FIA World Rally Championship. We won our second Safety Innovation of the Year award for this Advanced Side Impact System.

We were the first to introduce Accident Data Recorders to major championships outside F1, including the FIA World Touring Car Championship and FIA GT championships. We are now bringing these devices into national series.

We wrote and published the first ever guide to Medicine in Motor Sport, which was nominated for the 'Safety Initiative of the Year' award at the Professional MotorSport World Expo.

We appointed motor sport's first-ever Regional Training Providers, who have helped to increase the safety and training standards of motor sport officials across the world. We have since added four more RTPs across the world including the DMSB who have been certified with RTP status only this week.

We launched our own Young Driver Excellence Academy, the first-ever to develop young racing driver talent with safety education as a central curriculum focus throughout.

But we now have a new focus, which I believe should be our core remit – to help you, the ASNs, to develop of motor sport worldwide. This is a subject that the Institute first embraced in 2008 when we were selected by the FIA Foundation to manage the Motor Sport Safety Development Fund.

Through the Fund programme we have distributed grants to 102 of the 136 ASNs across the world, the numbers are impressive: €30 million to 270 separate projects, with over 65,000 officials trained and 6,500 young drivers educated.

We are here to help you and we will continue to do so. Whether that is through our continuing Outreach programme with events around the world or our accreditation schemes for officials training and environmental performance, we are here to support and encourage excellence in your important work.

Improving environmental sustainability in motor sport is a key aspect of this. For our sport to survive we have to meet this modern challenge head on and we will offer all of the support we can in this area. We will also ensure that through the reward and recognition of best

practice, our sport is seen as responsible and taking a leadership role on environmental matters.

We recently welcomed McLaren as the first motor sport organisation in the world to achieve our Environmental Award for the Achievement of Excellence. The award is part of a broader initiative between the FIA and the FIA Institute aimed at evaluating and reducing the environmental impact of motor sport.

Underpinning this is the Environmental Certification Framework – the first to have been developed specifically for motor sport. It enables ASNs, teams, circuits, manufacturers, and event organisers to achieve the highest standards in environmental management.

We are very much looking forward to the ASNs participation in this programme.

It's clear that the environment is one of the key challenges currently facing our sport. But throughout our conference, in plenary and workshop sessions, we will have the chance to identify other issues of vital importance to the development of the FIA family.

Though independent organisations, the FIA and FIA Institute are unified by a common purpose - to support our members, and through our membership, to support the grass roots of our sport. I pledge to you now, that in an ever-closer collaboration with the FIA, the FIA Institute will continue to seek new and innovative ways to support you and the future of motor sport.

Thank you.