



27.06.2013

STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY

FIA and FIA Institute will work together to improve motor sport sustainability around the world

FIA Deputy President for Sport Graham Stoker and FIA Institute Deputy President Garry Connelly gave a joint statement on sustainability on the final day of FIA Sports Conference Week.

Graham Stoker opened the statement by outlining the FIA's involvement in sustainability issues to date.

He said: "The challenge for motor sport and the FIA is at first glance daunting to say the least, but we have a great opportunity to play a constructive role on environmental issues both as a sport and as the representative of mobility consumers.

"We are in a unique position to not only reduce our impact, as every organisation and sport must do, but we can also help to develop the solutions of tomorrow. In the last World Motor Sport Council, the FIA Sustainability Working Group was set up to define a strategy for the FIA on environmental issues that can form the basis of our actions for the coming years.

"But sustainability is not a new subject for us. The FIA has been involved in this area as far back as the Rio summit in the early 90s. For the FIA since then, it is a topic that we have taken seriously, in both our Sporting and Mobility arms. In Mobility, over the years, we have played a key role in campaigning for stricter emissions standards on pollutants and greenhouse gases, notably at EU level but also through Working Parties of the UN in Geneva.

"Mobility was also responsible for important actions such as Make Cars Green, which successfully demonstrated how sport can be used to promote important mobility issues.

"On the sporting side we have played an important role in areas such as consumer acceptance of new technologies, as was the case with the move from leaded fuel to unleaded. Motor sport was amongst the first to make this move and helped convince the consumer that unleaded fuel could perform just as well as traditional fuel.

"More recently technologies such as KERS have been introduced and have already helped to form the basis of mobility solutions for environmental sustainability issues.

"In the coming years I have no doubt that through Formula E we will drive the same consumer acceptance for electric vehicles.

Garry Connelly then talked about the work of the Environmentally Sustainable Motor Sport Commission and the FIA Institute.

He said: "The FIA Environmentally Sustainable Motor Sport Commission was established in 2009. This Commission, chaired by Peter Wright, was set up to take an initial look at some of the key policies and principals that needed to be adapted into motor sport. These were debated and adopted at the World Motor Sport Council after which the Commission, having completed its tasks, was dissolved.

"As part of the process, the FIA Institute changed its statutes to include sustainability and was specifically tasked with the development of a number of topics. Notably: Environmental Management, Carbon Sequestration, and Noise Control.

"On Environmental Management, I am proud to say that we have developed a landmark certification framework specifically designed for motor sport, which a number of stakeholders, including ourselves, have already adopted.

"This Framework sets out how anyone involved in motor sport can measure and improve their environmental impacts.

"I am also pleased to say that this Certification Framework will form one of the cornerstones of the FIA's strategy."

Graham Stoker finished the statement by outlining the future strategy plans in this area.

He said: "The work of the Institute has been invaluable in shaping the FIA's vision on this subject. Tomorrow in the World Motor Sport Council we intend to adopt the FIA's strategy for the forthcoming years. The key message is that within the decade, we want motor sport to be recognised as an exemplar of best practice in environmental sustainability and a world leader for environmental innovation creating a positive impact on both the track and road.

"To achieve this we will 'Measure & Improve' and 'Innovate & Promote'. By measure and improve, we really are talking about motor sport's environmental impact and how it can be improved. Tools such as the FIA Institute's Environmental Certification Framework will be instrumental to this aspect of the strategy.

"The FIA must also get championships to conduct Life Cycle Assessments to improve their own management. Through this we will identify environmental hot spots and prioritise their improvement.

"When it comes to innovation and promotion, we will be considering the pioneering role of motor sport in promoting consumer acceptance. We will look at how new regulations can lead to championships, such as Formula E, developing competitive powertrain solutions and driving consumer acceptance of sustainable mobility.

"We will also focus on technology transfer to the consumer market and award excellence and innovation.

"Finally as an umbrella for the strategy we intend to launch a campaign under the banner 'Action for Environment'."

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