



DAILY NEWSLETTER  
MONDAY 02.12.13

# AUTO+ ASSEMBLY

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## KEEPING PACE WITH CHANGE

Regional meetings plan for a stronger federation through collaboration PG 2/3

## A VERY PARISIAN PARTY

Delegates kick off Assembly week in typically chic French style PG 4

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A long-exposure photograph of a Parisian street at night. The Eiffel Tower is illuminated and reflected in the water of a canal. Light trails from cars are visible on the road. The text 'Bringing the AGA back home' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Bringing  
the AGA  
back home

Returning as host city,  
Paris today welcomed  
delegates to a successful  
first day at the Assembly

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

# Keeping pace with change

Day one at the AGA saw Arab, African, Eastern European and North American regions focus on creating a stronger federation through communication and collaboration



## Region III

North American clubs, representing FIA Region III, met this morning to discuss the federation's new affiliation process.

FIA Secretary General for Mobility Susan Pikrallidas told delegates that the new process aims to ensure that the FIA is a strong family, with all member clubs offering similar services. Delegates at the meeting chaired by CAA President Tim Shearman agreed that this would not only aid club development but also ensure a sense of pride in attaining FIA membership.

As part of the process, clubs will be obliged to provide more information on their ownership structure, history, organisation, mobility-related activities and revenues. For each applicant there will also be a site visit – firstly by the region and then by the administration if necessary. Finally, a joint recommendation will be presented to the World Council and General Assembly for approval. For applicant clubs currently unable to meet the affiliation requirements, a support programme will be provided through regional offices.

The CAA's Frank Fotia, Chairman of the Services Commission, also updated delegates on FIA Connect, an online platform developed with the support of the CAA, which will support the work of the Policy and Services Commissions by providing a space for club collaboration. Delegates welcomed the focus on the sharing of traffic information for commercial purposes – an area in which they agreed the region is currently lacking. Efforts to develop an improved Independent Drivers' Licence were also well received as driving rules in Region III vary widely from country to country.



## COFO

At a wide-ranging meeting chaired by Danijel Starman, President of AVTO-Moto Zveza Slovenije, Eastern European clubs today discussed how COFO clubs can attract new members.

Oldrich Vanicek of the Czech Republic's UAMK ranked the provision of improved mobility services as the most important aspect for clubs to consider, while Serbia's AMSS reported that any possible downturn in membership in the country had been stemmed through the creation of a loyalty programme that had actually increased membership in 2013 by 20,000.

Delegates also voiced their desire for the Region I website to feature more best practice documentation in order to encourage COFO members to better engage with the region and as a means of promoting collaborative projects among members.



Delegates also had the opportunity to discuss cross-border transit systems with Youlian Guenkov of the International Road Union, who said that by simplifying and harmonising customs systems and through facilitating border crossings for customs officers and trade operators, cost effectiveness could be greatly increased and the door-to-door transport of goods secured.

He emphasised the importance for all countries of signing up to existing UN International agreements and conventions, notably the TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers) Convention. Using existing systems in place at the IRU he said the technical basis for a paperless TIR system is in place today.

Elected to the ACTAC board alongside Hani Shaban were: Mohammed Ben Sulayem (Automobile and Touring Club for the United Arab Emirates) as ACTAC Chairman, Essa Hamzah Alfailakawi, (Kuwait Automobile and Touring Club) as Secretary General, Adel Abdel Baki (Automobile and Touring Club of Egypt) as 1st Vice Chairman, Ahmed Abdel Malik (Yemen Club for Touring and Automobile) as 2nd Chairman, Riyadh Al Malik (Saudi Automobile & Touring Association) as Treasurer, and Chibab Baloul (Fédération Algérienne des Sports Mécaniques) as the Mobility and Tourism Commissioner.



## ACTAC

Progress made in a range of safety, governance and management projects undertaken over the past year were under review at today's meeting of the Arab Council for Touring & Automobile Clubs (ACTAC), which brought together 21 clubs from across the region.

A highlight of the past year was the success of the ACTAC Management

Workshop in Qatar, which brought together many highly regarded speakers and top level managers from across the region for the exchange of best practice and ideas on new membership and business models.

The fight for road safety remains a priority for ACTAC clubs and a new Road Safety Research Scholarship is being launched with the goal of encouraging members to put forward new projects. Hani Shaban of the Automobile Club de Syrie was also elected as an Executive Member of ACTAC with responsibility for road safety issues.



## ACTA

The challenge of keeping up with rapid technological developments and a changing business environment were major themes at the meeting of the FIA African Council of Touring & Automobile Clubs (ACTA), chaired by AA Uganda President John Mutenda.

Illustrating the pace of change occurring within club services, Karen Bryden from the Automobile Association of South Africa said organisations need to adapt quickly to the shift from traditional paper maps to Google maps. Delegates agreed that dealing with swift developments in technology requires clubs to stay informed, while also making members aware of any updates or alterations to existing services. They added that the continual improvement of IT skills is essential in this regard.

Following on from this theme, the meeting agreed that attracting members with new services through the exploitation of high-growth sectors can be a key to success. Nizar Jivani from Tanzania's AAT offered the example of the emerging market for second-hand cars in the country, a growth area the club is taking advantage of through publicising its services in carrying out vehicle valuations and inspections.

Also under discussion was the ACTA Learnership Programme, funded by the FIA Development Fund to foster growth in areas such as tourism and insurance. Members said they would like the programme to develop as a platform for all ACTA members, allowing for more collaborative projects such as ways to develop business models or train staff.

## AUTO 5 - OUT NOW

Featuring an exclusive interview with soon-to-be WEC star Mark Webber, a look inside the jet test lab where the FIA is improving helmet safety and a report on the Long Short Walk's journey to the UN General Assembly, issue 5 of AUTO is out now.





## WELCOME COCKTAIL

### A date with tradition

In keeping with tradition, the first day of intense work at Assembly week ended with a very much more relaxing cocktail evening. And in terms of tradition, venues don't come with more history attached than the ACF's beautiful building, as FIA President Jean Todt told delegates in his speech welcoming them to this year's gathering.

"I would like to thank the ACF President, Robert Panhard, for welcoming us to the ACF. The FIA is delighted to gather here in Paris, in this building which has been the seat of the Federation since its foundation," he said at the salons Concorde. "This reception highlights the close relationship the ACF and the FIA has forged over these years. Co-operation that will continue, thanks to the good understanding between us."

The President finished by wishing delegates well in their work over the coming days and looked forward to Friday evening's gala Prize-Giving.

