FIA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016
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AUTO+ ASSEMBLY

Willkommen

Vienna opens its doors to the largest ever FIA Annual General Assembly

OPENING DAY

FIA President hails Club commitment as Annual General Assembly gets underway

Jean Todt welcomes more than 400 delegates to Vienna's Imperial Hofburg Palace for week of key meetings

The largest ever gathering of FIA Member Club representatives got underway in Vienna yesterday, with the Federation's Annual General Assembly and Prize Giving later being officially opened by FIA President Jean Todt at the first social event of the week at the Austrian capital's historic Rathaus.

Some 446 delegates from 175 Clubs and 119 countries are registered to meet over the coming week to look back over a successful year in both Sport and Mobility, and to map how the Federation aims to build on its 2016 success over the coming year.

"I would like to congratulate you for your exceptional mobilisation and participation," said the FIA President. "This high level of involvement shows our Clubs' commitment to our organisation."

Amongst the dignitaries in attendance at the event were the Mayor of Vienna, Michael Häupl, and Werner Kraus, President of host club the ÖAMTC. "I would like to thank the Mayor of Vienna for welcoming us to this city and this evening to its superb City Hall, the Rathaus," added President Todt. "We are delighted to hold such an important event for our community here.

"Both in terms of Sport and Mobility, Austria and its club, the ÖAMTC, which has just celebrated its 120th anniversary, are exemplary. Thanks to the quality of the Club's services, it has grown continuously and today counts over two million members."

Three full days of meetings will now follow, including those of the World Motor Sport Council and the World Council for Automobile Mobility and Tourism where key decisions for the year ahead will be taken.

"Our programmes are dense, but I wish you all a productive week of discussion and collaboration."

REGIONAL FOCUS: ACTA

Tailored strategy planned for African Clubs

ACTA delegates develop plans to drive business forward

The opening meeting of a packed week-long schedule saw the African Council of Touring and Automobile Clubs (ACTA) work together to build a new strategy for the future.

ACTA Vice President Simon Modisaeman was keen to identify the need for a solid strategy, saying that ACTA Clubs need to formulate a strategy presenting their businesses in the best light.

"If we don't come forward and present ourselves in the manner which we want to drive our businesses, no one will do it for us," he said.

The meeting, attended by Region I President Thierry Willemarck, then turned to scheduling a meeting for spring 2017.

Willemarck said: "Thanks to a successful grant application from FIA Mobility, there are the structures in place to arrange a meeting, based on the findings of the Vision 2030 study conducted by Region I could be planned. What needs to happen is that ACTA needs to agree on a plan, and then we can supply a consultant to help you structure and implement it."

Thanks to the recommendations provided by Vision 2030, there is the scope to tailor these discussions to ACTA members, as Willemarck observed: "Your countries have the opportunity to become an aggregator of service providers. You could create the platform to make services available – for example towing services, insurance and so on.

"It doesn't take a great amount of financial input, but it gives you scope to upscale, and then to work together across the ACTA region."

In light of these recommendations, the members moved to arrange further meetings this week, in order to lay the foundations for a strong and progressive 2017 for the ACTA region.

REGIONAL FOCUS: COFO

Promoting shared learning

Wide-ranging meeting sees members share success stories with a view to the future

Chairman Oldrich Vanícek welcomed a large turnout of regional Club Presidents, Club Correspondents and delegates to yesterday's COFO meeting, which focused on the sharing of information and experience across the region.

With discussions opened to the floor, FIA Region I President Thierry Willemarck congratulated all the COFO members for their outstanding participation and innovation over the past year, and invited them to take part in a follow-up exercise to the Vision 2030 activity of last year.

Various presentations were then given from COFO Clubs detailing progress over the past years.

Representatives from Albania (ACA), Romania (ACR), Slovenia (AMZS), Croatia (HAK), Serbia (AMSS) and the Czech Republic (UAMK) all gave an overview of their activities from the past 12 months, and looked ahead to the future to implement further innovations designed to grow their membership base and to encourage participation across Mobility and Sport.

The range of topics and solutions from across the region was expansive, including the co-development of grassroots motor sport and road safety programmes in Albania, the development of road safety applications for children in Romania and the grand multimedia celebration of the club's 110th anniversary in Croatia.

Serbia, meanwhile, presented a major programme at its centre for driving assessment and training designed to assist disabled people in driving safely in everyday traffic. Each country had something new to bring to the table to help shape the development of all the Member Clubs moving forward.

REGIONAL FOCUS: REGION IV

Leading the way through innovation

South American Clubs focus on partnerships in development of organisation projects

FIA Region IV hosted a forward-looking meeting yesterday, which focused on a number of projects and partnerships aimed at 2017 and beyond.

The role of partnerships to support the work of the Region IV Clubs was highlighted using a number of examples including Michelin, a global partner of the FIA, while a specific programme on sustainable mobility and eco-driving for Latin American countries was also discussed. The SafeKids Worldwide project was widely praised for its role in ensuring the establishment of a number of trained and certified staff to promote child safety programmes for governments and local authorities. A meeting in Mexico was confirmed for 12-16 December, which will gather 20 participants from 16 clubs forming a key element in this process.

The need for partnerships between Member Clubs in addition to those with external entities was identified, with regional events key to the transfer knowledge. Strengthening the FIA brand in Region IV was raised as the next point of discussion. A shared club process was agreed in order to maximise awareness of the benefits of brand recognition among Club members.

Finally, innovations in marketing and communications were suggested as a means of achieving the various goals under discussion. The implementation of a marketing system via a digital platform and mobile application similar in all Clubs in the region was seen as the best solution, through which Club partners would be offered various benefits.

Commenting on the region's 2016 work, Region IV FIA President Jorge Tomasi said: "The first four months of this year have been ones of intense work, developing important strategic alliances in mobility actions with companies linked to the automotive and insurance sector.

"There has been important work carried out in the region on the FIA Vision 2030 report," he added. "The Managers' meeting recently held at the Automovil Club of El Salvador was attended by representatives of 12 clubs. They selected joint regional work opportunities covering areas such as strategic alliances for the development of new services, communication and marketing, focusing on services to the individual — with an emphasis on women and youth — with the use of new technologies that will strengthen knowledge of the service offer."

WELCOME COCKTAIL

Starting the week in historic style at Vienna's Rathaus

The opening day of this year's Annual General Assembly ended with the traditional welcome cocktail, which this year took place in the stunning and impressive surrounds of Vienna's Rathaus, the capital's City Hall, and home to the offices of the Mayor of Vienna, Michael Häupl, who joined FIA President Jean Todt and ÖAMTC President Werner Kraus in officially opening this year's AGA.

In the beautiful rooms of the late 19th century neo-gothic building delegates were treated to entertainment from a typical Viennese children's choir and dined on a typical Austrian menu as they once again had the chance to meet with colleagues and plan the week ahead.

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