



AUTO + ASSEMBLY

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BIENVENUE

Paris opens its doors to the 2017 FIA Annual General Assembly



LICENSED FOR PROGRESS AND FOR IMPROVED CHILD SAFETY

Today's meeting of Arab Council for Touring and Automobile Clubs heard how the region has made significant progress in a number of areas in 2017, particularly in relation to the provision of international driving licences and in the area of child safety.



After opening the meeting, Chairman Mohammed Ben Sulayem welcomed FIA President Jean Todt to address the ACTAC members in attendance.

"Over the past eight years I have visited all of you individually and some of you several times and I am very happy to see you all again, because yours is a region where a lot of things happen, even though some of you are facing very difficult situations. However, we feel very close to you and you can always count on our support," said the FIA President.

"I want also to thank you for the trust you have in me and the support you have given to me," he added. "I will remind you in my opening speech at the Assembly that for me the FIA is a big family and you are a big part of that family. We respect your engagement, we respect the culture of the region and I already look forward to climbing the mountain with you to bring the FIA to the highest level.

"I want to have international motor sport in Saudi Arabia and in other countries where motor sport is already strong. Some already have international rallying or international single seaters, but we will develop more.

"In mobility, my priority is to see fewer fatalities on the road and for me you are an essential partner in speaking to governments," he concluded. "We know road safety improvements start with engagement with governments. You are key to the implementation of UN Conventions. I am also the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, so I want everyone to engage with UN agencies

in your region. We need to work as a team and I am very proud of the fact that you are all very strong team players."

The meeting then heard about progress made with the digital implementation of ACTAC's International Driving Licence programme, with Dr Sean O'Connor reprising a presentation from FIA Mobility Conference in Japan that outlined greatly increased engagement with the online portal.

He warned, however, that IDL/IDPs are still in danger of being regulated out of existence. "The threat is very real," he said, "we are still fighting for the future of the IDL."

FIA Public Policy Officer Maria Strigunova told delegates that evidence and knowledge obtained from the ACTAC initiative is being used by a combined group at UN level in order to ensure that IDLs/IDPs remain within the UN system.

Dr O'Connor then outlined progress with ACTAC's Child Restraint System initiative; again pointing to significant gain in engagement on digital platforms with a figure of 126,525 visits far outstripping previous targets.

Ms Strigunova added that the programmes success lies in three areas, acquiring technical expertise, implementing awareness-raising campaigns and liaising with local authorities.

"We would ask Clubs to evaluate where their countries stand. Is CRS use mandatory or not? What are the current regulatory obstacles? It is very important to harvest this information," she said.

Following the meeting, Chairman Ben Sulayem said that progress with the IDL/IDP programme had been a major success for the region.

"Recently we have been looking at two products that have been neglected for the past 70 years," he said. "Firstly, the International Drivers' Permit. There was so much pirating and illegal issuers and it is our job to protect our customers. There was a move at ISO level to get rid of the IDL. That would seriously impact Clubs. At least 50 per cent of our Clubs would have to close. We are still not secure but we are at the same level with our proposal. Now we have to improve it. It has been a big success but it's not over. We are perhaps half way there.

"The other issue is the Carnet de Passage en douane (CDP). Ninety per cent of the CDPs are issued in the Middle East and Arab-speaking countries. It is a source of income to the Clubs and to the FIA."

Looking to the future he concluded: "In mobility I would like to see that the initiatives we have started begin to bear fruit. Yes, there are a lot of technologies with mobility, connected cars and so forth, but I want something tangible for the Clubs and for me road safety is important.

"The question is how to translate it? We do that in some countries with the child safety restraint programme, or with the #3500LIVES campaign. I also see environmental protection being a big part in our future and I see the two products already mentioned- IDL and CDP - becoming much stronger."



F1 CHAMPIONS GATHER IN PARIS AS FIA OPENS HALL OF FAME

The FIA last night inaugurated the new FIA Hall of Fame in Paris with nine FIA Formula One World Champions in attendance as all 33 winners of motor sport's most prestigious title were honoured by the sport's regulator.



In association with official partners Michelin and Rolex, the FIA Hall of Fame was launched at a glittering ceremony at the headquarters of the ACF in Paris, with champions Jackie Stewart, Mario Andretti, Alain Prost, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill, Jacques Villeneuve, Fernando Alonso, Sebastian Vettel and Nico Rosberg joining representatives and family of F1's other title winners in becoming the first drivers honoured by the new initiative.

FIA President Jean Todt said: "The FIA Hall of Fame has been created to highlight the values that run through motor sport and the champions who have been and who still are the exemplars of the FIA's values of commitment, integrity, respect and sportsmanship. This is the first stage of an ambitious project: the FIA Hall of Fame will soon expand to the FIA headquarters in Geneva, and other champions and other disciplines will be in the spotlight in the coming years. In this way we will celebrate all the FIA champions who have made, and who still make the history of motor sport so incredibly rich and inspiring."

The inaugural ceremony, held in the library of the ACF, where Formula One's regulations were first drafted in the 1940s, first inducted the 17 champions with single titles to their name, starting with Formula One's first champion, 1950 winner Giuseppe Farina and ending with 2016 champion Nico Rosberg.

Among that group was 1992 champion Nigel Mansell, who said: "I'd like to thank the FIA for making this evening possible for all of us. It's such a special evening. I'd also like to congratulate all the other drivers here, truly they are all tremendous."



Damon Hill, who in 1996 followed in the footsteps of his double title winning father Graham, added: "It was always very difficult to get it through my head that I'd become a world champion at all, so the thrill continues, and it just an amazing honour to be included. You see the people who are here and the names mentioned – Mario Andretti, Nigel Mansell, Alain Prost and Jackie Stewart and it's hard to believe I'm in the same gang. So, congratulations to the FIA for instigating the Hall of Fame and thank you for including me."

The ceremony then celebrated two- and three-time champions, including 2005 and 2006 winner Fernando Alonso who commented: "It has been a fantastic night. I'm very honoured to be here with these great champions. All of them inspired me to become a Formula One driver, they inspired all the kids of my generation, so I feel very proud."

Alonso, who this year raced at the Indianapolis 500 and who will contest the 24 Hours of Daytona sports car race in 2018, added: I'm trying other series now and trying to imitate some of the idols I had when I was a kid. The Indy 500 experience this year, maybe Le Mans in the future. President Todt mentioned that the Hall of Fame for endurance racing will be in 2019, so I have two years!"

The Renault R25 driven to title glory by Alonso in 2005 was displayed outside the FIA headquarters along with the Alfa Romeo 158 of Nino Farina; the Ferrari 156 of Phil Hill; the Lotus 25 of Jim Clark; the McLaren MP4/5 of Ayrton Senna, and the Ferrari F1-2000 of Michael Schumacher.

After honouring three-time winners such as F1 legends Sir Jackie Stewart and Jack Brabham, the evening moved to the sport's most successful drivers, beginning with the induction of four-time champions Alain Prost, Sebastian Vettel and Lewis Hamilton and then five-time winner Juan Manuel Fangio.

Of the evening, 2010-2013 winner Vettel said: "It's been incredible to see all these names, all these faces. Obviously a lot of them I only know from what I have read, what I



have seen, but I think it's a great idea. There's so much history in the sports, it's still so alive, and thanks to events like tonight's, we'll keep it like that. I love racing but as you get older you change your way of thinking and I think your appreciation for things and definitely for things like tonight grows."

Finally, the sport's most successful competitor, seven-star driver Michael Schumacher, was inducted, with long-time manager Sabine Kehm on hand to accept his award.

"We all know Michael should be here and I am totally sure he would love to be here," she said. "He always had the highest respect for everyone in this room and he would be very honoured. What made Michael so special, what made him so successful was, as with everybody in this room, a love and passion for this sport."

The inauguration also saw the launch of the FIA Hall of Fame website, where the achievements of those inducted will be celebrated in order to help inspire the legends of the future.

The launch of the FIA of Hall of Fame has been supported from the start by official partners Michelin and Rolex. Both brands are also involved with the FIA's flagship Championships, from the FIA Formula One Championship (Rolex) to the FIA World Rally Championship, the FIA World Endurance Championship and the FIA Formula E Championship (Michelin). LAT Images and INA (Institut National de l'Audiovisuel) become Media Partners, providing a hugely rich resource of incredible still and moving images of motor sport's greatest heroes.



A HISTORIC START TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The first day of this year's event saw delegates from across the globe assemble to highlight the progress made in 2017 and the issues still being faced by members clubs in their respective regions. Gatherings of Region II and Region IV members were held alongside meetings of the African Council for Touring and the Automobile (ACTA) and the Coordination forum for Eastern and Central European Countries (COFO), while the FIA Mobility Programmes Committee also held its annual review.

After a busy opening day, the work ended with the traditional Welcome Cocktail, in the historic surrounds of the headquarters of the world's oldest motoring organisations, the Automobile Club de France.







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